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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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CONTENTS.

Ecclesiastical Affairs:
Confession in the Church of England ... 737
Four Days of Convocation ... 737
The Education Bill in the House of Commons ... 738
The Liberation Movement ... 739
Religious and Denominational News:
Salem Chapel, Bradford ... 740
Colleges and Schools:
The Nonconformist Grammar School, Bishop's Stortford ... 741
Mill Hill School ... 742
Correspondence:
New Guinea ... 743
Small Country Churches 744
Lord Macaulay and the Established Church... 744
The Barling Catechism and its Author ... 744
The Village of Hilleaden, Bucks ... 744
School Boards and School Boards ... 744
Sketches from the Gallery 745
The War in South-Eastern Europe ... 745
The Official Papers on the Eastern Question ... 745
Foreign Miscellany... 746
London University ... 746
Epitome of News... 747
Leading Articles:
Summary ... 748
The Blue Book on the Affairs of Turkey ... 749
The Block in Committee ... 749
Literature:
A New Church Defender ... 750
"The Bertram Family" 751
Recent Poetry ... 751
Archdeacon Sinclair's Charges ... 752
The Midland Railway 752
Miscellaneous ... 753
Gleanings ... 754
Births, Marriages, and Deaths... 754
Advertisements ... 754

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

CONFESSION IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

On Friday evening there was a brief interchange of thought in the House of Lords between Lord Oranmore and the Archbishop of Canterbury on the practice of "habitual sacramental confession," enjoined and, where possible, enforced by certain of the clergy of the Established Church. The noble lord's speech was more loudly expressive of reprobation of the practice than were the terms of the motion with which he concluded. He moved for a copy of a report of the committee of the Upper House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury with regard to confession—a motion to which the archbishop readily acceded, on the presumption that the noble lord was anxious "to declare to the public that the formal utterances of the bishops in the Convocation of the Southern Province were what they ought to be in that matter." The most rev. prelate believed that "the reading of that report by the clergy would be very likely to cure many of the evils of which the noble lord had not unnaturally complained." The probability is that most of the clergy are already as familiar with the report in question as they are ever likely to become. It is not as yet anything more than a somewhat feeble-forcible embodiment of Episcopal opinion on the subject of auricular confession. It needs to be sustained by legal authority and action, before it will operate with much influence on those who may most correctly be described as Romanising clergymen. The mere publication of this document by authority of the House of Lords may appear to some people to add a civil sanction to an ecclesiastical deliverance; but, in point of fact, life can be infused into it only by the Supreme Court of Legislature, and we hear of no intention on the part of the Episcopal Bench to proceed with decision against such of the clergy as habitually offend against the commonly-received doctrine of the Church of England on this subject.

Lord Oranmore has stated that the practice of habitual sacramental confession is spreading. He alluded to the Nelson case, on which we commented last week, and gave as the opinion of a lady with whom he had conversed since its occurrence that there was not one family among the upper classes in life which had not to regret some similar case. This is probably an exaggeration of the actual state of the facts, but the noble lord was perhaps well informed when he added, that there was not a diocese in which this practice of confession did not prevail in one or more churches. Lord Oranmore cited one or two illustrations drawn from actual life, which it is unnecessary for us here to repeat. He declared, in conclusion, his belief that confession was the corner-stone of sacerdotalism, and that no greater evil ever afflicted society. "Nationally, it robbed men of self-reliance; in England it would divide class from class. Socially, it would destroy our English homes, by interposing a stranger between husband and wife, between father and child. Religiously, it would rob us of pure Christianity, by creating many mediators instead of one."

As we have already said, the Archbishop of Canterbury readily acceded to the motion. He demurred, indeed, to the statement of the noble lord that there was no family in the upper ranks of society which was not suffering under that evil. But he was loth to believe that the evil was of the magnitude which had been described. No doubt there were instances in which what the noble lord complained of did exist. There were clergymen, with more zeal than discretion, who were unwilling to be guided by their authorised teachers. But the question was a very difficult and delicate one. As long as there were persons who were weak enough to think they would receive benefit from placing themselves, more than the Church required or enjoined, under the guidance and direction of a clergyman, whatever his sentiments might be, it was not unnatural that some mischief should arise to those who so acted. He admitted that in this country a great number of Roman Catholic works, which did not bear on the face of them any distinctive characteristics of that faith, were circulated from house to house, and he told the noble lord that if he could so influence public opinion in this matter as to prevent booksellers from selling such works, and young persons from buying them, he would be going much good.

But surely it is the business of the bishops to watch over and counteract, as far as may be, these insidious practices. As State-Church bishops, it surely is their duty to take such steps as may be necessary for obtaining a decisive interpretation of the law as to the legality of these irregular proceedings. This is properly the weapon put into their hands for that purpose. It is, as we think, anything but a Christian weapon; but it is undoubtedly contained in the armoury of the Established Church, nor would the bishops consent to part with it, though they may refrain from making practical use of it. But are they making such use of that moral influence which they believe themselves to possess which would put an effectual restraint on the practice under animadversion? Have they fairly brought the evil under public notice? Formally, it is true, they have condemned it, but what active and united effort have they made to enforce upon the clergy that condemnation? The truth is they are afraid of troubling the waters. They know whither too much activity in a Protestant sense will drive no small section of the clergy. Meanwhile, they are as good as silent on the question, and the nation, which permits them to be silent, incurs the moral responsibility which its law-made bishops are indisposed to assume.

FOUR DAYS OF CONVOCATION.

The Crown—by which phrase, in the present instance, Mr. Disraeli is meant—allowed the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury to meet for four days last week. Both Houses, accordingly, met on Tuesday, and, as usual, separated without having done any effectual work for the Church which it is supposed, by a wild figment of the imagination, to represent. Yet some subjects were discussed upon which a decision might have been arrived at, and, no doubt, would have been, but that, in so many instances, discussion in the Establishment is only another name for division. The whole of one day was occupied in debating the constitution of the Final Court of Appeal—a topic which has been debated off and on for some twenty years with no tangible effect and no influence whatever upon the Legislature. The Bishop of Lincoln was the first to move in this matter. He objected to the bill now before Parliament, and urged that a committee should be appointed to consider it. He thought that the subject was of vital importance to the Church, in relation to the State, and that if it were wrongly decided there might be something like a disruption in the Church. Amongst others, the Archbishop of Canterbury opposed the views of the Bishop of Lincoln, with, as he acknowledged, "great heat." The archbishop being the organ of communication between the Government and Convocation, naturally looks at such a question from a very practical point of view. He did not say so in so many words, for for it would have been inconvenient to let out the naked truth before the reporters, but it was clear what the archbishop wished to say. It was, that Convocation might say what it might choose to say, and do what it might choose to do, but it would have no influence whatever, either upon the Government or upon the Houses of Legislature. Ultimately, after a whole day's discussion, a committee was appointed, which, we may add, has since met and reported that it is most expedient to do—nothing.

A debate that has overshadowed all others in interest is the one that next succeeded, and which occupied the attention of both Houses for an unusual time, and, indeed, until their prorogation. The scandals attending the Burial Service have at last reached the ears even of Convocation. It was lately resolved, by both Houses, that, in the case of Dissenters, silent burial might be permitted; but the Upper House has gone farther than this, and expressed an opinion in favour of hymns being sung, as well as of abridged or altered services. Upon this a very unusual step was taken. On Wednesday, when the subject came up, the Upper House resolved upon a conference of both Houses — that is to say, that both Houses should sit together and discuss it. This is always done in the York Convocation, but seldom, if ever, in that of Canterbury. This, however, was agreed upon. The resolution to be discussed, which was moved by Lord A. Compton, and seconded by Canon Gregory, was as follows:—

That it shall be lawful for the minister, at the request or with the consent of the kindred or friends of the deceased, to permit the corpse to be committed to the grave in the church or chapel yard of the parish without hymn, anthem, or address of any kind.

To this Archdeacon Hessey moved a rider:—

Nevertheless, it shall not be unlawful for the minister to use in the church such service for the comfort of the mourners as may be recommended by the ordinary. Such service to be used after the burial.

Besides this, Canon Hopkins gave notice in the Lower House of the following resolutions, which, as will be seen, go beyond the scope of those actually under discussion:—

1. That this House, touched with a deep respect and sympathy for all who mourn for the dead, frankly recognises the difficulty and distress which is felt by those who are compelled by circumstances to bury their dead either with rites of which they do not approve or with no religious rites whatever.

2. That this House is unable to see how the grievance which arises from such circumstances can be met by altering the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, inasmuch as this book is intended only for the use of the members of the Church of England; or by any action of the synods or convocations of the Church, because the authority of those synods is denied by many of those who feel and complain of the grievance.

3. That this House is of opinion that the remedy for any such grievance must be found in the action of the Legislature dealing out even-handed justice between the members of the Church of England and other people, and taking care not to inflict hardships on the one side whilst attempting to mitigate the hardships of the other, ample security being taken by Parliament that all interments in churchyards (as now) be conduced with decency and order, and with fit services.

4. That this House accepts, as a basis of legislation, the recommendations contained in the latter part of the Report of the Committee on the Law of Burials, presented to the House and ordered to be printed on Tuesday, February 15, 1876.

Here are signs and proofs that public opinion is making way amongst the most Conservative and most stolid set of people in this country—the clergy of the Establishment. The discussion that took place in the conference of both Houses afforded further evidence of this fact. We cannot say that there was a general, but certainly there was a partial, expression of opinion in favour of a service over even the unbaptized. The Bishop of London led the way in this direction, and was followed by the Bishop of Chichester; while the Bishop of Lichfield also spoke in favour of some such measure. The opposition of Archdeacon Denison was as pronounced as usual; but even Convocation must by this time see that whatever the Archdeacon opposes is sure to be carried. The final result of these discussions is not stated—we suppose there was, as usual, none to state—and Convocation now stands adjourned to August 10, upon which day, it may be supposed, it will be adjourned with Parliament until next year. The final result is, of course, of little consequence. Nothing can be done without the licence of the Crown and the consent of the Legislature; but it is somewhat refreshing to see that the bishops and clergy are really capable of entertaining a new idea. Years hence people will laugh at the fact that a long discussion about such services should have been needed. They will ask where was the humanity of the clerics of this generation, just as we ask where was the humanity of the bishops who voted against the reform of the criminal law? But with the recognition of the fact that the clerical intellect is always behind the intellect of mankind at large, it will be seen that there is cause for congratulation whenever it takes even a small step in a forward direction.

THE EDUCATION BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons, on Thursday, resumed in committee the consideration of the Vice-President's new clause for the assistance of poor districts. It proposes that up to 17s. 6d. the Government grant shall be given without the condition that it is supplemented by an equal amount of fees and subscriptions. It was opposed by Mr. Forster, Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Mr. W. Holms, and Dr. Playfair, who argued that, by discouraging subscriptions, it would destroy the principle of local management, and would in time, after a bitter struggle, convert the voluntary schools into pure denominational or board schools. Mr. Heygate and Mr. Ritchie, on the other hand, regarded the clause as an act of justice to the voluntary schools, and Lord Sandon pointed out that already a large number of schools, especially Nonconformist schools, were carried on solely by the Government grant and school fees, without subscriptions. On a division, the second reading of the clause was carried by 185 to 100.

An amendment, moved by Lord E. Fitzmaurice, providing for the reduction of the grant where the amount of subscription falls below a certain proportion of the whole income of a school, was negatived by 120 to 83. On the question that the clause stand part of the bill, the discussion of its principle was renewed by Mr. Rylands and Mr. J. K. Cross, and Mr. Whalley animadverted on the conduct of the Government in terms which led to his censure by the Chairman and his defence by Mr. Roebuck. Ultimately the clause was added to the bill, as was also a clause authorising the appointment of school attendance committees by urban sanitary authorities.

The new clauses proposed by private members were then taken. A clause enabling school boards or other local authority to make provision for blind and deaf mute children, moved by Mr. Wheelhouse, was negatived by 225 to 54; but a clause proposed proposed by Mr Muntz, permitting the expenses of providing industrial schools to be spread over a term of years, was accepted by Lord Sandon and added to the bill. A clause, proposed by Mr. Pell, giving power for the dissolution of school boards which possess no schools or sites, gave rise to an animated discussion. It was supported by Mr. Hubbard, Mr. W. Egerton, and others.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER hoped the Government would not accept the amendment that had been proposed. It would not be easy to make an alteration in the existing law more likely to have an ill effect on the cause of education. It had been asked why the districts which had appointed school boards might not also dispense with them; but it might be asked with equal reason why they should not also abolish the town councils and other bodies which administer affairs in the localities. What he wished was that the work of education should be left in the hands of municipalities, and that it should be administered by bodies specially appointed for the purpose, instead of adding it to the duties of existing bodies on which other duties devolved. The O'Conor Don appealed to the Government not to reject the clause. Mr. Hubbard supported the amendment on the ground that in many places the ratepayers were heartily sick of school boards, but nevertheless could not get rid of them under the existing law. Mr. Bright maintained that that proposal was completely reactionary as regarded the Act of 1870. The hon. member who had spoken last had told them the whole story. That hon. gentleman condemned school boards because, in his opinion, they were not sufficiently religious, and if there was any force in his argument he would like to go much further, and compel the dissolution of school boards. In 1870 Parliament thought it wiser to have special local bodies for dealing with education, instead of referring it to municipal corporations and boards of guardians. It was said there were many school boards which had not schools, but many of those school boards had not yet been working sufficiently long to provide the schools that were necessary for their districts, while many others had not found it necessary to build schools, but had taken over some that were already built. In his own town (Rochdale), for example, the board had not yet had occasion to build a single school, but it had taken over several good existing schools. Schools thus taken over were under the management of the board and practically board schools. If they adopted that clause and a school board were dissolved, there would be no public body to which the schools could be handed over. It was urged that there was great dissatisfaction throughout the country with the operation of school boards—(Hear, hear)—but, he maintained, on the contrary, that though hon. gentlemen opposite had exercised their influence in stimulating hostility towards those bodies, the general feeling of the country was that if Parliament was to deal at all with education, the school boards were doing a most excellent work, (Hear, hear.) If this clause were passed he had no hesitation in saying that it would be felt throughout the country as a great blow struck at the Act of 1870, and in obedience to an influence which the noble lord ought to resist.

Lord SANDON said that though the Government would never consent to the abolition of a school board which was doing good work, they saw no reason why those who had created a board should not also get rid of it if there was nothing for it to do. In the end, the debate was adjourned.

On Friday the debate was resumed, Mr. Raikes occupying the chair in place of the Speaker, who was indisposed. Mr. FORSTER said he expected it would turn out that a very large proportion of those 541 school board districts mentioned in the return had been not voluntarily, but compulsorily formed.

Lord SANDON said he did not think this question of number, whether it was 530 or 540, was at all of the importance which his right hon. friend attached to it. It was not a question of number, but simply one of abstract justice and of giving the whole country the option of saying whether they would carry out the Education Act by means of school boards or of the local authorities.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER was rather surprised that the Education Department had not for their own satisfaction obtained some information as to the number of school boards that would be affected. If the number was very small, the clause was a very large one for its purpose. The great object of the Act of 1870 was to provide sufficient school accommodation in every school district. With that object an inquiry was made throughout the kingdom, and where there was deficient school accommodation it was the duty of the department to issue orders for the compulsory formation of school boards. The noble lord had stated that up to the 1st of June, 1876, 870 compulsory orders for school boards had been issued; many more would in all probability be required—probably double that number—and in almost all these cases there had been opposition in the district to the compulsory formation of school boards. If this clause passed, a bonus would be held out to every one who disliked to have a school board in his district, to be constantly getting up fresh agitation against having one. This clause would apply in the enormous majority of cases to those who had been forced to have a school board, and who, in the opinion of both sides of the House, ought to have been so forced, and there would be immense administrative inconvenience in reopening the question of school supply. (Hear.)

Sir W. HARCOURT said that the Government had given way to those who had raised the standard of reaction. They objected to the Act of 1870, and were prepared to destroy the school boards. This was the beginning of a war of which we could not see the end—(cheers)—and the battle-field was to be the education of the people. Voluntry schools were being beaten in the open field; a demand was made that they should be strengthened; the vice-president had been unable to resist that demand; the first result was the noble lord's new clause of Thursday, which undermined the principle on which State aid was first given to the denominational schools; but that did not satisfy the noble lord's extreme supporters; and now the hon. member for Leicestershire made a proposal directly adverse to school boards, and the Government jumped at it with alacrity. What was the meaning of this change of policy, which was not embodied in the bill by the Government?

Lord SANDON thought it high time to take a cooler view of the situation. Mr. Forster said that voluntary schools were decreasing; on the contrary, they were largely increasing, and when the Government were charged with strangling board schools, the hon. and learned gentleman could hardly be aware that the abolition of the deductions from the 17s. 6d. applied to the board as well as to the voluntary schools. Hon. members who taunted him with accepting an amendment from his own side did not taunt him when he accepted an amendment from the noble lord (Lord F. Cavendish) and from other members opposite, though these amendments were in some respects distasteful to his own side. There was no hostility on the part of the Government to school boards, and in proof of this he reminded the committee that the Government had resisted proposals which made it impossible to establish school boards where there was no deficiency of schools. The principle on which the Government then acted was that a district should be left perfectly free to choose a school board if it desired one; and it followed logically that when no schools existed, and no sites had been bought or loans made, the country should have equal freedom in getting rid of school boards.

Mr. BRIGHT said the noble lord had not explained the effect of the clause upon town councils, and the powers they would have under it.

Lord SANDON said it was obvious that the same authority which had the power of asking a school board must have the power of asking to get rid of it. In this respect the clause would follow the lines of the Act of 1870.

Mr. A. BROWN said it was clear from the noble lord's answer that town councils would be able by a bare majority to petition the school department to dissolve school boards. That power would be dangerous and mischievous.

Sir H. JACKSON opposed the clause, which he contended was at variance with the policy which the noble lord led the House to expect he would pursue when he introduced the bill. It was stated by hon. gentlemen opposite that the clause would apply only to school boards which had no schools and no property. But what about such school boards as those of Burnley and Stockport, which had no schools? (Hear, hear.) He feared this was an attempt to reverse the policy of the Act of 1870. Gentlemen on that (the Opposition) side had not yet forgotten the metaphors used by the noble lord in introducing his first education vote, when he spoke of leading on his forces against the entrenchments of the enemy. (Hear, hear.) That language of the noble lord had united as one man what was then a divided minority, and they were victorious along the line. (Cheers.) He would now tell the noble lord that, by every constitutional means, they were determined to oppose the passing of this clause. (Renewed cheers.)

Mr. ANDERSON said that having now found out what the true policy of the bill was, they were entitled to oppose it in every constitutional way; and he should be glad to assist in doing so. Mr. Davies believed it would have a most injurious influence throughout the country. It went entirely to condemn the Act of 1870. Mr. Whalley also opposed the clause. It was a torpedo introduced by the hon. member for Leicestershire, who himself, on the second reading, declared the bill perfect, and expressed a hope that the noble lord would pass it without amendment. It would encourage men who were a disgrace to the country, who, receiving millions to protect us against the Papacy, built a bridge between it and the Church of England, and betrayed that Church with Sepoy treachery.

Mr. ROEBUCK said the real effect of the clause would be to weaken the efforts of those who were anxious for the education of the people; it would be most mischievous to the cause of education, especially where the prejudices of the people opposed to education had been conquered and the compulsory attendance of children enforced. Already the working of the Act of 1870 had produced the most beneficial results, which were made manifest in that hot-bed of democracy, Sheffield, when it was visited by the Prince of Wales, and when the popular feeling that was evinced was greatly influenced by the fact that the instruction of the children had been an education to their parents. (Hear, hear.) He asked the Prime Minister to reconsider a proposal which would do the greatest harm to the progress of education in this country. (Cheers.)

Mr. HOPWOOD opposed the amendment, as calculated to destroy even the school board of Stockport, which was so exemplary in the eyes of the Denominationalists. Mr. Ramsey said he certainly should not have voted for the second reading of the bill if he had for a moment supposed any proposal would be adopted as a part of the measure that would in any way imperil the existence of school boards in places where they were at present established. The expense of school boards was complained of, but this rested very much with the inhabitants of the districts. In the parish in which he resided, and which had a population of above 3,000, the cost of a school board contest was only

16s. (Laughter.) In the various districts of Scotland the members of the school board did their work as a labour of love. Mr. Mundella said it was clear that the discussion could not be brought to a close then in consequence of the profound feeling which had been aroused on that side of the House. The acceptance of the clause by the Government had created a feeling which he was sure could not be allayed till the clause was withdrawn. ("Hear, hear," and "No, no.") He moved that the chairman report progress. (Hear, hear) Lord Hartington expressed his regret that Mr. Disraeli had not been present when the discussion began on the previous evening, because he felt convinced that he would at once have withdrawn from an amendment quite foreign to the bill, and described by the vice-president as one of no consequence, when it excited such a deep feeling of opposition on one side of the House. Even now, after a day had been wasted on the amendment, he hoped the Prime Minister would reconsider whether it was absolutely necessary thus to encumber the passing of his bill.

On a division the motion to report progress was rejected by 175 to 120; but, as it was now close upon seven o'clock, the committee was adjourned.

On Monday Lord SANDON resumed the discussion, commencing in a conciliatory spirit. He repeated that the object of the clause was simply to enable localities which were burdened with unnecessary school boards to get rid of them, with the consent of the Privy Council, where there was already sufficient accommodation provided. The Government had not thought it necessary to put such a clause in their bill; but when Mr. Pell proposed it, they were obliged to consider it, and they could see nothing objectionable in it. He disclaimed all hostility to school boards, which were doing their duty, but at the same time he warned the opponents of the clause that the position of school boards was very critical just now, and that, if he were driven to it, it would be his duty to state circumstances about their working as to which he had hitherto kept silence. The Government, however, would be willing to adopt an amendment which had been put on the paper by Dr. Dodson, with an alteration, so that a board should not be dissolved unless the Education Department was satisfied it was no longer necessary for the purpose of education in the district.

Mr. PELL expressed his willingness to accept this amendment, but the offer was received with cries of "No, no!" from the Opposition side; and

Mr. BRIGHT denounced the clause generally in a speech of considerable acrimony, which led to many interruptions from the Ministerial benches. He taunted Lord Sandon with his constant tendency to say something uncivil of the School Boards, ridiculed the protection afforded by the Conscience clause, and charged the managers of denominational schools with intolerance and bigotry. He also repeated what he has formerly contended to be the unanswerable argument against the clause—that if the school boards were abolished there would be no authority left to set up a new school if it were needed, nor to take over existing schools from the managers.

Mr. A. MILLS warmly repudiated the motives which Mr. Bright had attributed to the Church managers; and the clause was supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Storer, and others; while, on the other hand, the arguments which had already been urged against the clause on Thursday and Friday were reiterated by Mr. Dodson, Mr. Mundella, Mr. Bristowe, Mr. James, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Whalley, Mr. Lowe, and others. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, after explaining once more the motives of the Government for supporting the clause, urged the committee not to endanger the bill by prolonging the discussion beyond reasonable limits, or by using all the forms of the House, as some members had threatened, in order to procure its rejection. The O'Connor Don also advised the Opposition to be content with having explained its views at great length, and to allow the bill to be read a second time after which it could be amended in committee. The prolonged resistance to the clause was not *bona fide*, but to retard the bill. But the Government, after the declarations it had made, could not be so weak as to recede even if it were necessary to keep Parliament sitting until September.

Dr. PLAYFAIR regarded the clause as the first breach opened for the assault on the school board system generally. Mr. Hardy denied that the clause would disturb the Act of 1870, as it gave people the choice of putting themselves under the local authorities if they thought the work of education could thus be conducted more cheaply, and be more efficiently managed than under a school board. In reply to Mr. Bright's argument, he pointed out that the Education Department would still have the power of compelling localities to make good any educational deficiencies. Mr. Forster once more urged the educational objections to the clause, and the committee was then allowed to divide, with the result that the clause was read a second time by a majority of eighty-one—221 to 140.

An amendment to except from the clause the boards compulsorily formed was moved by Mr. Forster, but the Committee adjourned until to-day before it was settled.

On Tuesday three amendments, intended to limit the operation of the clause, were rejected. There were some sharp passages between Lord Sandon and the Liberals. In the course of the discussion,

Mr. RICHARD said: I am glad that my right hon. friend the member for Bradford, and the other occupants of the front Opposition bench, have at length begun to understand the true character of this measure. I am bound to say this for those hon. and right hon. gentlemen, that whatever merits or demerits they may possess, they are at least a singularly long-suffering generation, that they display the most wonderful patience and equanimity in hearing the grievances and complaints of their own friends. (Laughter and cheers.) Some of us within, and a much larger number of their most faithful supporters out of the House, have been trying for a considerable time to awaken them to a sense of the insidious danger lurking in this bill. (Hear, hear.) But they chose to turn a deaf ear to our remonstrances, and rather to listen to the suave and skilful eloquence of the noble lord whose courtesy and amiability they are never weary of eulogising. And I must admit that the speech in which the noble lord introduced this measure was so conciliatory in its tone, and so plausible in its representations that he succeeded in disguising from both sides of the House what we on this side regard as the most obnoxious features of his plan, so that when the bill came into our hands and we compared it with the speech, we were obliged to say that while the voice had been the voice of Jacob, the hands were the hands of Esau. (Cheers and laughter.) But after the bill made its appearance we had no excuse for being misled. I can't admit, with my hon. and learned friend the member for Oxford, that any mine has been sprung upon us. I hold that what is brought out rather more openly and audaciously in the new clauses, was politically in the bill in its original form. (Hear, hear, hear.) I venture to say, in moving my resolution on going into committee, that the bill was a bill for promoting, not national, but sectarian education, that its tendency, and, indeed, its avowed object, was to discourage in every possible way the establishment of school boards and the liberal and unsectarian schools to which they give rise, and to throw the education of the country more and more into clerical hands just at the very time when the Romanising tendency of one class of the clergy and the fanatical hatred of the Nonconformists on the part of another class, less than ever entitle them to have this solemn and important trust committed to their charge. (Cheers.) I maintained that its effects, even before the new clauses were brought forward, was to make a large number of denominational schools independent of voluntary subscriptions, and thus present to us the extraordinary anomaly of a large number of institutions, scattered over the whole country, completely supported out of public resources, and virtually under the absolute management and control of private and irresponsible persons, with this enormous aggravation of the anomaly that you take power to force all the children of the people into these institutions without any adequate securities for the rights of conscience. (Cheers.) I stated that there were already many schools up and down the country which did not require, and did not receive, any help from voluntary sources. The noble lord charged me with stating that there were thousands of schools in that condition, and when I corrected him refused to accept my correction. But the statement which he then ascribed to me, and which I did not make, will be true enough under this bill, for there will be thousands of schools in that condition. And because I protested against this, you charged me with being actuated by narrow sectarian views. ("Hear, hear," from the Opposition.) Your theory then, as I understand it, is this, that to support a measure for taking, by main force, the children of all classes of religionists, and compel them to enter into the schools of one denomination, is a proof of a large, liberal, generous, and catholic disposition—(laughter and applause)—while to oppose that, and claim for parents some right to decide the religious influences under which his children shall be educated, is evidence of a sectarian and intolerant spirit. (Cheers.) I contend on the other hand, that you are sectarian and intolerant, and that we are, as we have ever been, the advocates of religious liberty. I contend, in regard to this clause, that no answer has been given to the numerous able and speeches of my right hon. friend, the member for Bradford. Surely it will be admitted on all sides that there is no man in this House, no man in the country, so competent to appreciate the meaning and object of such a clause as the right hon. gentleman. He is the founder of the system of school boards, and he sees clearly enough that the tendency, nay, I think I may fairly say the intention, of this clause is to undo incomparably the most important and valuable part of the system with which his name is honourably associated. I fancy my right hon. friend is learning several things in the course of this discussion. During those five passages which he so freely exchanged with hon. gentlemen opposite in 1870, I believe he thought that he was winning them over to Liberal views on education. He flattered himself that by the large and ample concessions he was making to them, and which they professed to receive with so much cordiality and gratitude, he was converting them from the error of their way. (Laughter and applause.) But he is beginning to discover that the Ethiopian does not so easily change his skin, nor the leopard his spots—(laughter)—and that the only use they are making of his concession is to take them as vantage-ground, from which to overturn the best part of his work. I trust that, at any rate, he will adhere firmly to his amendment, and so do something to counteract these insidious clauses which are aimed at the very existence of school boards. (Cheers.)

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

MR. GORDON'S MEETINGS.

HELMSLEY, NORTH RIDING.—Mr. Gordon having lectured here some weeks ago, a Church defence meeting was announced on Friday week, though no name of the lecturer was given. At the last moment Mr. Gordon turned up, to find his old antagonist, Mr. Reed, at the close of whose address Mr. Gordon got a lengthy hearing, and with whom the next evening was spent in set controversy. The conduct of the vicar is reported as being very bad indeed, but this only served the purpose of the friends of freedom, and great sympathy has been excited. As one correspondent says—"A capital stroke of work was done."

SPOFFORTH AND COPMANTHORPE.—Last Monday and Tuesday evenings, Mr. Gordon, supported by Mr. Andrew, of Leeds, addressed open-air meetings in these places, near York, and that with great success. At the latter place, it is true, the vicar had been very busy, and the people seemed afraid to come forward; but at last they gathered together, and two "respectable" persons from York, who attempted to be very abusive, gave a finishing zest to the proceedings. Our good friend, Mr. Dudding, of Boston Spa, ably presided both nights.

LECTURES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—During the past week Mr. Fisher has lectured on different phases of the disestablishment movement at Coleford, Ruardean-hill, Ellwood, and Lydbrook, in the Forest of Dean. Notwithstanding the extreme heat, the attendance has been very good at each place, and the interest taken in the subject most marked. Whatever may be the case elsewhere, the sturdy foresters are thoroughly prepared for disestablishment.

WITHERN, NEAR ALFORD.—On Thursday evening last, the Rev. J. H. Lummis delivered an open-air address in this village. He was attentively heard by a considerable audience, and the literature of the Society was thankfully received. This is new ground.

The London correspondent of the *Voce Della Verità*, writing to that paper, announces with all possible reserve that the Rev. Orby Shipley, the well-known Protestant High-Church minister, is converted to Catholicism.

NOLO EPISCOPARI.—We are informed that the bishopric of Calcutta has been offered to the Rev. Alfred Blomfield, and has been declined by him. It was said to have been previously offered to Drs. Farrar and Moorhouse without better result.—*Guardian*.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SEE OF COLOGNE.—The Prussian Government authorities, on the 17th inst., seized the property belonging to the Roman Catholic archiepiscopal see of Cologne. As the chapter will not elect, according to the request of the Government, an administrator within ten days, a Government official will be charged, after the expiration of that time, with the administration of the property. The exercise of all episcopal functions in the archdiocese is now forbidden until the conditions of the law of May 20, 1874, shall be fulfilled.

PROTESTANTISM IN BELGIUM.—The Brussels correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—"A very curious event has occurred at Sart-Darne-Aveline, a small commune in the canton of Genappe, in Belgium. A young curate had been sent there in aid of the old and blind parish priest. This young curate, discharging his duties very zealously and without meddling with politics and the private affairs of the parishioners, became, as always happens in such cases, obnoxious to his bishop, and was recalled by him. The parishioners protested against this, and refused to allow the various curates who were successively sent to them to officiate. The parishioners, having addressed themselves twice to the Evangelical Society, obtained at last the services of a pastor, and the commune, formerly entirely Roman Catholic, has now a Protestant congregation of more than fifty families, numbering from 500 to 600 souls, and a Protestant Church is already being built at the cost of the congregation."

"GOOD WORDS" AND DR HUTTON, OF PAISLEY.—Are we to understand that *Good Words* is an organ of the Established Church? This month it gives insertion to a discourse by Dean Stanley, in which there is a most unbecoming attack on Dr. Hutton, of Paisley, for his speech in favour of disestablishment, delivered at the late meetings of the United Presbyterian Synod. The assault on Dr. Hutton is bitter and malicious; and it is accompanied by a laudation of another United Presbyterian divine of Paisley, who sails in the same boat with Dean Stanley and Dr. Donald Macleod. The Liberationists are described, in the same discourse, as being prompted in their crusade solely by "political animosity" and "social jealousy," and as desiring to destroy "all that is good and beautiful" in the Anglican Church. Of course these statements are not true, and Dean Stanley ought to know that they are false. But this is not what we intended to say. We have simply to ask Dr. Donald Macleod if he means to transform the excellent magazine of which he is editor into

an organ of the Church Defence Association.—*Freeman.*

Confession in the Church of England.—In the House of Lords on Friday, Lord Oranmore and Browne moved a humble address for a copy of the Report of the Committee of the Upper House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury with regard to confession agreed to in the session of 1874. He said that the practice of habitual confession and absolution was on the increase, and stated that notices were attached to many churches making known that confession would be heard in them three times a week. He thought it right that public attention should be brought to bear on the subject, in order that some measure might be passed, by which the practice he referred to might be checked. The Archbishop of Canterbury said he intended to offer no opposition to the motion, but he expressed a hope that Lord Oranmore had exaggerated the evil of which he complained. The difficulty arose from the circumstances that whereas the heads of the church had pronounced a clear opinion on the subject, many clergymen felt themselves at liberty to ignore their decided utterances. With regard to the notices said to be affixed to some churches, there was, no doubt, some ground of complaint; but before the bishops could interfere in the matter, formal complaint must be laid before them. The Bishop of London explained that a clergyman who preached false doctrine might be proceeded against, but it was a difficult matter to deal with the practice of confession. The motion was then agreed to.

The Bishops at the Mansion House.—The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained on Wednesday evening a distinguished company to a banquet at the Mansion House to meet the archbishops and bishops. The guests numbered 280. Lord Selborne, in replying to the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," observed that we lived in a world in which we could not separate spiritual influences from temporal ones, and it was therefore of importance that a reconciliation should be effected. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in responding for "the Archbishops and Bishops," said, referring to some remarks of the Lord Mayor on the diversity he found between one church and another in the course of his official visits to different churches, that in the old times, when certainly there was more uniformity, there was also certainly more dulness. Men did more willingly than now what they were desired to do, because they had no very strong convictions of their own. In his day he had been a schoolmaster, and he knew that with boys—and he supposed it was the same with curates—it was not very easy to get them to do exactly what was wished; and even when they heartily desired to conform to your general requests, they liked to do it occasionally in their own way. With that view he was not disposed to quarrel too much, even with those eccentricities which certainly gave him far more trouble than those who visited the various churches week after week. Mr. Pierrepont, the American Minister, and the President of the Orange Free State, also responded to toasts.

Official Christianity.—There was a curious scene at a recent meeting of the Greenock School Board. It having been arranged that the members should be asked to open the proceedings in alphabetical order, Mr. D. Campbell was called upon, and suggested whether it was not better to confine this duty to the clerical members. The Rev. John Barclay, of the West Parish Church (Established) who followed, said with much heat that he regarded the arrangement made by the chairman as "tantamount to a direct insult to the clerical profession." The Chairman (Mr. Morton) replied that Mr. Barclay knew that he had a strong notion against official Christianity; that he regarded Christianity as a personal thing; and that each man was bound to glorify God himself. The custom referred to, though not universal, was very general; yet he thought it would be much better departed from. He meant no offence — it never occurred to him that the thing could possibly be offensive. Mr. Hutcheson said he was astonished at Mr. Barclay's warmth, and was not aware that he or the other clergymen were there as clergymen any more than he was there as a sugar-broker. He could not conceive the condition of mind a man got into when he took up such a position. Eventually Mr. D. Campbell suggested that in future the three Presbyterian clergymen should be asked in rotation to conduct the prayer, and in the absence of all of them, the duty to fall on the chairman. This was agreed to. On this display of ecclesiastical pride and narrowness, the *Glasgow Herald* remarks:—"It may be supposed that the lay members of the Greenock School Board will not be ill-pleased to offer their prayers by clerical proxy; but why should they not be encouraged to pray in public if they are so inclined? Ministers have plenty of opportunities of 'keeping their hand in,' and commoner people, who might do quite as well as they, are spoiled from want of practice. Surely Mr. Barclay will not hold that the layman is devoid of that earnestness and fervency which availeth, or that the cause of religion is advanced only by official worship. In any case, the impression is left that, in the most conspicuous qualities of the Christian and the gentleman, the cleric of the Establishment has here been beaten by the Dissenting layman." A correspondent, *apropos* of this case, says that all the school boards in Scotland are as purely denominational as ever they were. In all of them the Shorter Catechism is taught daily as well as the Bible,

Religious and Denominational News.

SALEM CHAPEL, BRADFORD.

On Tuesday evening, the 18th inst., a recognition service in connection with the settlement of the Rev. T. G. Horton as pastor of Salem Congregational Chapel, Bradford, took place in the chapel. The Rev. J. G. Miall, the late pastor, presided, and many ministers of the different denominations in the town and neighbourhood were present; also Mr. S. S. Mander and Alderman Bantock, deacons of Queen-street Chapel, Wolverhampton, where the Rev. Mr. Horton has ministered for the last ten years; and others. The proceedings having been opened by singing and prayer, the Rev. Dr. Campbell gave an address expounding the principles held by the Congregationalist body. He expressed his belief that these principles were founded on the broadest and soundest faith in and attachment to the doctrines of Christ. Acting in accordance with these principles, the congregation of Salem Chapel had with great reluctance accepted the resignation of their late honoured pastor, and they had accepted that resignation in a manner that did honour to themselves and to their pastor. They believed they were acting on the same principles in the manner in which they had gone about the task of looking out for a successor to Mr. Miall, and in finding a man who they believed to be peculiarly fitted for the work of Christ's ministry among them. That being so, on behalf of the other Congregationalist ministers of Bradford and the district, he offered the heartiest welcome to Mr. Horton as a fellow labourer in the Gospel of Christ. Mr. John Hill, one of the deacons, made a statement as to the events that had led to Mr. Horton's settlement in Bradford. A little more than two years ago, their late minister, Mr. Miall, was attacked somewhat suddenly by a serious illness which so much enfeebled his general health as to render him unfit for a considerable time to continue his pastoral work. For several anxious months the deacons were clinging to the hope that Mr. Miall would be so far restored as to be able to continue the ministry he had so long exercised, but it soon became evident to Mr. Miall himself and to many of his attached friends that their hopes in this respect were not to be realised. The illness had inflicted so severe a blow as to preclude the probability of Mr. Miall gaining his former state of health and strength, and in 1874, accordingly, Mr. Miall informed the deacons that he should feel it his duty to resign his post in the course of the following year. The circumstances which led to Mr. Horton's invitation were then described, and his call to be pastor was signed by six-sevenths of the members of the church. That call was accepted by Mr. Horton, and since he had entered on his work the feeling was all but universal among the members of the congregation that they had got the right man in the right place. He thought the prospects of the church were very bright, and they were confident that there was a very useful future before the church and the minister. Mr. S. S. Mander and Mr. Bantock, the deacons of Mr. Horton's chapel at Wolverhampton, each briefly addressed the meeting, expressing their confidence that the congregation of Salem Chapel would find Mr. Horton a most able and efficient worker in Christ's vineyard, and that he would prove to be a power for good in the town of Bradford. The Rev. T. G. Horton then very ably addressed the meeting, his remarks bearing mainly on the present state of theological opinion in this country, and on the proper function of the pulpit. It was impossible not to see that there had been a great change in theological opinion during the last fifty years. That there had been a serious breakdown of the theological systems constructed by divines of two or three centuries ago every one must admit, but they were not all agreed as to how much or how little of the precious cargo was to be saved from the general wreck. A widespread tendency was observable to depart from the old landmarks of theology; and many tenets once held to be necessary to salvation were now silently or ostentatiously abandoned. And did they not also find, with regard to doctrines which were retained, both a diminished clearness in the apprehension of them and a diminished firmness in their advocacy? He often wondered what those truths were, now held in even the best of their churches, for which modern professors, or even ministers and deacons, would be willing to die? What was it which they believed and held so essential to God's glory and to man's salvation that, rather than surrender it, they would be willing to spend the rest of their days in a dungeon, or to be consumed bodily at the fiery stake? Once theology was the supreme light of the civilised world, and wherever it shone all other luminaries paled in its splendid beams; but now, alas! they saw that light waning more or less disastrously, in the broad glare of commercial prosperity, or in the dazzling scintillations of a too-pretentious science. One of the most marked features of the age was really that which Mr. Gladstone had called a revived Paganism. It was the worship of Pan or Pantheism in religion, if religion it could be called. Otherwise it was simply a surrender of man's whole being to the pursuit and to the enjoyment of what was simply materialistic, earthly, and sensual. The present was not an age of faith, but of unbelief. Nor was that the result, as in some former ages, of ignorance and gross brutality of mind, but rather stood associated with intelligence and the assumption of superior sagacity. People seemed disposed in their opinions and habits to go back to ancient pagan times, and pass the whole period of Christianity by as an era of prejudice, superstition, and mistake. For these and other reasons which he stated in full, Mr. Horton thought that the voice of the Christian pulpit was never more needed in any land or in any age than it was in our own—for if the age was to be roused out of its sensual slumbrousness—if it was to be kept back from sliding down into an abyss of virtual atheism, there was nothing that could do it but the influence of the Christian pulpit and the Christian Church. The ministry was necessary to the Church, and the Church was necessary to the world. Truly, should each minister pray with St. Paul, that utterance might be given to him that he might open his mouth boldly and make known the mystery of the Gospel as he ought to speak it. The modern preacher must be something more than a teacher; he must be both a seer and a prophet. He must seek to have visions of God; and then speak to his fellow-men as one whom God had commissioned and sent. There were tenets of Christianity which appeared to him to belong to the very heart and marrow of the truth as it was in Jesus. To have a vital hold of those seemed to him so essential that without it it was impossible for them to have that knowledge of God the Father and of His Son Jesus Christ, in which alone eternal life was found. Mediocrity of style could not now be tolerated. Another great difficulty lay in the wide diffusion of that sceptical cavilling and rationalistic spirit to which he had already adverted. That spirit was abroad in their churches and their congregations as well as elsewhere; affecting, like a subtle poison in the blood, those who sat in their pews and worshipped in their sanctuaries. Much of the preaching they listened to, however earnest and sincere the minister might be, fell flat upon their minds, and failed to awaken any response within them. All that apathy of spirit was owing partly to undue absorption in earthly things, but still more to a certain secret infidelity which had got possession of their minds, and which they were but dully conscious of themselves, while they had never confessed it to others. He was satisfied that it was that evil spirit of unbelief to which they must mainly attribute the general stagnation complained of in all their chapels, the languor of zeal among heads of families, the keeping aloof of the young people from intimate church communion, alienation from the public means of grace, and lamentable paucity of conversions. In their favour, however, they had in this age many aids and auxiliary appliances. The religious press might help them if the secular press hindered them. They were further helped by the great Sunday-school system, by those organisations instituted to wage war against insobriety and other forms of vice, by the extensive charities of modern days, all of which had a more or less distinct religious basis, and by the greater spirit of liberality in a pecuniary sense by which the Christian zeal of the present day was distinguished. Mr. Horton concluded by saying that his trust was in God, and not in himself; for in addition to the general difficulties of the Christian ministry, sufficiently appalling at all times, and under all circumstances, he was also conscious of his inadequacy personally to fill the gap created by the retirement of the late revered and beloved pastor of that church, who had been permitted, in the providence of God, for an unusually long period of time, to labour successfully in the Gospel, to enjoy the affection and confidence of a large and devoted congregation, and to wield a vast influence for good in the whole neighbourhood around. The Rev. E. R. Conder, of Leeds, addressed to the new minister some observations containing valuable counsel and words of encouragement in the great work to which he had been called. The Rev. J. G. Miall offered the dedicatory prayer, and after a few words from the Rev. Dr. Mellor, who referred in affecting terms to the death of two of his brother ministers who had been present when he (Dr. Mellor) was last in Salem Chapel—the Rev. Mr. Gregory and the Rev. W. Kingsland—the meeting terminated with the usual devotional exercises.

The Rev. H. W. Stent, formerly of Northampton, has accepted the invitation of the church at Redhill, Surrey, to become their pastor, and enters upon his duties upon Sunday next, the 30th inst.

A new Congregational church, which has cost 4,000*l.*, has been opened at Hatfield Heath, Essex. Congratulatory letters were read from Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson, the Under Home Secretary, and the vicar of the parish.

Munificent Gifts.—John Remington Mills, Esq., has just given to the new Congregational church at Tunbridge, 500*l.*; to the new church at Canterbury, 500*l.*; to the new church at Maidstone, 250*l.*; and to the Albion-road Church, Tunbridge Wells, of which he is a member, and over which the Rev. James Irving is pastor, a handsome communion service, consisting of flagon, two cups, three plates, and case. In addition to the above and other donations which lately he has given in Kent, Mr. Mills is erecting, at a cost of 2,000*l.*, on land adjoining Albion-road Church, a beautiful Sunday-school.—*English Independent.*

Death of the Rev. A. M. Henderson.—The Rev. A. M. Henderson, Principal of the Congregational College of Victoria, and pastor of the Collins-street Church, Melbourne, died on the 23rd ult., in the fifty-sixth year of his age. Mr. Henderson, who was formerly pastor of Claremont Chapel, Pentonville, London, was on his way to England in

pursuit of health and rest, having suffered from two attacks of paralysis. The immediate cause of his death was rheumatic fever, contracted through taking cold while crossing from Niagara Falls to Toronto. His remains were interred in St. James's Cemetery, Toronto.

SOUTHWARK CHRISTIAN MISSION.—When the Rev. G. W. M'Cree left St. Giles in 1874, and went to Borough-road Chapel, Southwark, he established this mission for evangelistic purposes, and, although great difficulties have had to be encountered, yet progress has been made. An old market filled with carts, barrows, slaughter-houses, stables, and beershops, and surrounded by a large population of poor, intemperate, immoral people, few of whom ever attend any place of worship, is the centre of operations, and here, through patient labour, good is springing up in harvest sheaves. To the poor the Gospel is preached both in-doors and out-doors, a prosperous penny-bank has been established, a sewing class for girls has been the means of much benefit, a barrow club for costermongers has enabled many of them to purchase their own barrows, and there is also a mothers' meeting, Bible class, temperance society, &c. In one case a whole family has been turned from evil ways; some hundreds of old and young are now being taught the way of life. All the operations are carefully overlooked by Mr. McCree, and we understand that he now wishes, if possible, to open another small mission station in one of the worst streets in the south of London. It is notorious for drunkenness, thefts, and immorality, and mission efforts are there greatly needed.

DEATH OF REV. DR. HENRY NISBET, SAMOA.—Intelligence has just been received from Samoa of the death of the Rev. Dr. Henry Nisbet, the distinguished missionary, from congestion of the brain. Dr. Nisbet was a native of Glasgow, and studied along with Rev. Dr. George Turner, with whom he was ever afterwards associated at Glasgow University. After attending the Relief Divinity Hall, then held in Paisley, they were ordained as missionaries in Hutchesontown United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow, in 1839, and in August of the following year sailed for the South Seas as agents of the London Missionary Society. The first field of labour was in Tanna, an island in the New Hebrides, close to Erromanga, where there had recently been massacred the Rev. John Williams and his young friend Mr. Harris. Messrs. Turner and Nisbet carried on operations there for a short time, but, on account of an insurrection among the natives, they were obliged, under cover of night, to flee with their wives for life. They landed at Samoa after a perilous voyage of four weeks, and set out afresh on the second stage of their missionary life. Since then they have met with great success in their work; and, in addition to ordinary missionary labours, established in 1844 the Samoan Missionary Seminary, which has sent forth more than 600 native agents during the past thirty-two years, and which has each year an average attendance of eighty students. This seminary has all along been superintended chiefly by Drs. Turner and Nisbet, and is now self-supporting. A few years ago Dr. Nisbet was home in this country superintending the printing of important works in the Samoan dialect, and occupied many of the leading pulpits of the Glasgow churches. Shortly after returning to Samoa the University of Glasgow conferred upon him the degree of D.D., as it had previously granted LL.D. to Dr. Turner.

HATFIELD HEATH, ESSEX.—The new Congregational Chapel in this place was opened on the 19th inst., the foundation-stone having been laid by Isaac Perry, Esq., of Chelmsford, about a year ago. The prevailing style of the new building is "Gothic," and the chapel is built of brick faced with flints. There are three vestry rooms on the ground floor, and over these is a spacious room for the Sunday-school, prayer meetings, or social gatherings. Sitting accommodation is provided for 450 persons, there being 200 seats in the gallery that runs round the sides and end facing the pulpit. The total cost of the chapel, including the organ, memorial window, and other special gifts, will not fall far short of 4,500*l.* The organ, which has cost about 350*l.*, has been presented by Mr. S. P. Matthews, of Campion's, Harlow. The opening services were crowded. The first commenced at noon, when the Rev. G. E. Singleton offered an impressive prayer. After singing, a portion of Scripture was read by the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, and the Rev. A. Hannay, Secretary of the Congregational Union, offered the dedicatory prayer. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser, D.D., and was founded on Galatians vi. 12 to end of chapter. There was afterwards a cold collation in the British Schoolroom, to which some 200 persons sat down. In the absence of James Spicer, Esq., of Woodford, who had been announced to preside, his son took the chair. The pastor stated that he had received a very kind letter from Sir H. J. Selwin-Ibbetson, Bart., M.P. (loud applause); also one from their worthy vicar, the Rev. T. G. Postlethwaite (renewed applause); another from their friend, Mr. Isaac Perry, of Chelmsford; and one from the Rev. Dr. Reynolds, principal of Cheshunt College. From the financial statement subsequently made it appeared that up to that morning the estimated deficiency was about 62*l.* The chairman gave a donation of 25*l.*, and offered a second 25*l.* on condition that the whole was promised by January 1 next. Mr. S. Poole and Mr. S. P. Matthews said they would also give another 10*l.* each with the like proviso. Several speeches were delivered, and tea was subsequently provided. The Rev. S. Hebditch preached in the evening to a crowded congregation. The two collections yielded about 72*l.*, and it is quite hoped that by the end of the year the new chapel will be free from debt. On Sunday the special services were continued, when the Rev. James Knaggs, of Stratford, preached morning and afternoon.

Colleges and Schools.

THE NONCONFORMIST GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

The annual gathering of the parents and friends of the East Anglian Nonconformist Grammar School was held at Bishop's Stortford on Tuesday. As usual the schoolroom in which the meeting was held was prettily festooned with evergreens, and the walls ornamented with Latin mottoes, but the ivy and laurel seemed more appropriate to the gloomy, miserable, drenching weather of last year's anniversary than to the genial July of the present glorious season.

During the past year the number of pupils has increased to 129, and their health has been uniformly excellent, as was manifest from their cheerful, ruddy countenances, and the *living* expressions of their eyes as they applauded one after another of their schoolfellows, who were brought prominently forward as prize winners.

The chair was taken by E. Grimwade, Esq. (Chairman of the Company), and among others present were the Revs. Mr. Cuthbertson, F. W. Davids, J. Davies, J. T. Davis, H. Batchelor, W. Dorling; Mr. James Scrutton, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Pearce, Brown, &c.

The proceedings commenced with the hymn:—

Let children hear the mighty deeds,
Which God performed of old.

A portion of Scripture was then read by the headmaster, and prayer was offered by the Rev. G. E. Singleton.

The report of the examiner for the year was as follows:—

To the Secretary to the Syndicate appointed by the University to provide for the examination of schools.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions I last week visited and examined the above school, and have the honour to send you my report for the information of the Syndicate.

I was present at the school July 3rd—7th, and each day spent some hours in *viva voce* examination.

Papers were set in all the subjects of instruction in every form but the lowest, where the examination was exclusively oral or by means of slates.

The higher forms were tested orally in nearly, if not quite, all their school work.

The number of boys presented for examination was 129, arranged in eleven forms, the upper comparatively small, the lower large.

Subjects of Instruction.—Greek, Latin, French, German, Scripture, the ordinary English subjects, Euclid, Algebra, Arithmetic, Elementary Mechanics, and Trigonometry.

Greek.—This is not at present a strong point; but from the way in which the lower forms are being drilled in grammar may be regarded as hopeful. In Form VI. translations from Euripides' Medea and Homer were weak. Passages from Xenophon were better rendered and the parsing of a fair number of the boys was satisfactory.

Latin (Horace, Virgil, Ovid).—Two books of the Odes carefully read—the references and peculiarities of construction well worked up. Latin appears to be taught throughout with great care.

French.—Taught as far as I can judge most conscientiously—the accent good, translations both orally given and in writing satisfactory. The boys are steadily drilled in grammar. Of the languages taught in the school French is clearly that in which the boys take most real interest, and work with most spirit.

German.—Eight boys wrote translations, and showed some knowledge of the rudiments of grammar.

Scripture.—(I, II Samuel, St. Mark's Gospel).—Satisfactory answers given in all the forms.

History.—Good papers sent in and very clear knowledge shown of the history of periods specially studied.

Geography.—A fair proportion of the written papers were good. In some forms the geography of the great English lines of railway has been made a special subject of study.

Euclid. Propositions (4 books).—Very well written out by the great majority of the boys and simple questions outside the bookwork fairly answered by several. There is a very wide gap between the work of Form V. and Form IV.; the latter being weak in Euclid.

Algebra.—A good average standard reached.

Arithmetic.—With few exceptions good work was done throughout the school—both in oral examination and in answering the printed questions. There was a general want of steadiness and accuracy in dealing with Decimal Fractions. The little boys worked well and quickly on slates and slips of paper.

Mechanics (Form VI.) and *Trigonometry* (Form V.)—Fair first steps have been taken in these subjects.

General Remarks.—The papers sent to me deserve the highest praise for neatness and orderly arrangement; the *handwriting* throughout is creditable. The *Spelling* and *Grammar*, with few exceptions, satisfactory. The work of the little boys appears to be well looked after and the teaching to be evenly and conscientiously distributed. It is a pity that more boys do not remain longer at the school so that the upper forms might be larger—there are only nineteen altogether in the three forms at the top of the school.

During the past year some considerable additions have been made to the *school premises*, including a new library, four new class-rooms, chemical laboratory and studies for senior boys, a new dormitory and masters' sitting-rooms, as well as a fives court and large playshed.

The *teaching staff* is quite adequate, and, as I understand, in no way changed since last year.

The conduct of the boys during the examination was excellent.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
T. STEVENS, M.A., Magd. Coll.

July 13, 1876.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated those present on the success of the past year. It was no small matter of thankfulness to the Father in heaven that the boys had been preserved from accident and sickness and death, and he was quite sure that all the scholars would express their hearty approval of the addition which had been made to the building, giving greater facilities not only for work but play. He hoped that at future gatherings of the school some attempt would be made to introduce the plan followed at Harrow and Eton, and let the boys themselves have something to say.

The Rev. H. BATCHELOR said he had been requested to say a word or two to Nonconformists on the importance of high-class education for their sons and daughters. There was a good variety of opinion amongst men as to what education should be. The only idea of some people was that education should only fit a boy for his calling in life. That education should do something to prepare one for his business or profession he supposed no one would dispute, but he maintained that education should contemplate a far larger purpose than either business or profession. The proper idea of a thorough physical education was to develope the entire physical nature, to expand all the organs and all the activities of the frame. Education, he contended, was not so much intended to benefit a man's business as it was intended to benefit his humanity. (Hear, hear.) He looked upon it that education and all scholastic training were intended to develop the aptitudes, the tastes, the faculties, of our entire nature. Instead of regarding education as designed to fit a man for business, one of the great aims of education was to qualify a man to escape from business. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) How much healthier and happier many a man would be if he had literary culture enough to induce him to banish once a day the worry and pressure of business, and give his evening hour to the companionship of books. (Applause.) How many there were, toiling and moiling at business simply because they did not know in the world what else to do? He knew a friend who was afflicted with 100,000*l.* a year, and he asked him, "Why do you go on toiling and moiling in this fashion?" He replied, "I am not a man of books, and have never done anything but business, and I am sure I should not live long if I were to give up business, as a great number who have made plenty of money, if they do not carry on their business, die of *ennui*." One of the great ends of business was so to qualify a man that when he had done with the ordinary toil of life he could have sufficient means at his disposal for all kinds of usefulness. Many a man might find abundant opportunity for doing good, but he found himself far on in life without the habits and tastes which were essential in any high degree to lead a life of varied forms of Christian benevolence. He did not think that education should exclude the classics. He totally disagreed with those who disparaged Greek and Latin study. It was manifest to every one that Greek and Latin studies were indispensable to a thorough knowledge of our own language. The classics were the best means of education with which they have to deal. The work of acquiring a language and of translating works from another language into our own, brought into play the highest faculties of the mind. The puzzling constructions of the Latin and the subtle and exquisite refinements of the Greek rendered them a splendid instrumentality in the way of intellectual discipline. Our best literature was saturated with classical learning, and a reader with a knowledge of nothing but English could not thoroughly appreciate the great masters. Further, a knowledge of Greek and Latin, put a man into a thoroughly different world from that in which a man lived and moved who was unacquainted with classical studies. A classical scholar brought to everything which he pondered eyes and ears, visions and memories, which no mere English students of art and literature, could by any possibility share with him. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to see that Latin was in the programme of the girls. A great many people have some doubts about teaching girls Greek and Latin. For his own part he did not see why girls should not be able to use the results of classical learning as well as boys. It would not, of course, help them to make puddings or darn stockings—(laughter)—but it would not unfit them for those most urgent responsibilities; and he was not joking when he said that making a pudding and darning stockings were things of great physical and moral consequence. (Renewed laughter.) It had always struck him as a great defect that mothers were to such an extent so ignorant of the studies of their sons. It would be an immense assistance to a boy if his mother were thoroughly conversant with his studies and in sympathy with all his works; because, as a rule, the boy's hardest studies were an unknown world to the mother. He maintained that there should be educated mothers as well as competent and conscientious masters. (Hear, hear.) The question of high-class education was of great importance to them as Congregationalists. (Applause.) From such schools as these they hoped to draw a good number of their future ministers. They wanted

from their colleges men prepared by a first-class academical education for their work. He did not mean to assert that in all possible cases it was a matter of absolute necessity that a minister should be a man of immense and ponderous learning; but, all things being equal, a learned ministry was always vastly better than an unlearned one. The more thoroughly the scholastic acquisition of a minister the more able would he be in the pulpit, in the home, and in discharging public responsibilities. (Hear, hear.) In every way it was necessary that there should be to the utmost extent a learned ministry. (Applause.) Further, as Congregationalists, they could not hold their ground, much less fulfil their high vocation in this great country, unless they had their sons and daughters trained to the highest forms of discipline and education. (Hear, hear.) Laymen of high-class education were of great value to the ministry. In a variety of ways they could strengthen the minister in the discharge of his arduous duties. It was in the power of such men to infuse a larger amount of intelligence into the social devotion and into all the practical work of the church. The only men who could adequately represent people among their fellow-citizens were highly educated men. Without education it was altogether impossible to secure the respect of a community which was thoroughly educated. As Congregationalists they had solemn responsibilities committed to their trust. In the forefront of the field they had to contend for the spiritual life and liberty of England. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Their vocation was never more sharply and distinctly defined than at the present hour. Let it be their resolve, made with intelligence, made with a firm and immovable determination; that the precious heritage which had been handed down by the suffering and the blood of their fathers should pass to their posterity at the latest day unimpaired, and be a blessing to the ages to come. (Applause.) The signs were abundant that the conflict which had been borne in the past was to be carried on and waged in the future. Let them take care to leave nothing undone which might secure that, when their toils were over and their last tear was shed and their hands were dust, their schools might be seen much farther ahead on the plains of conflict than they were now, with much more of the battle smoke behind them, and far nearer to the cloudless skies, which rang through and through with the shouts of spiritual and of human liberty. (Loud applause.)

Mr. JAMES SCRUTTON then presented the prizes to the successful boys, the rewards depending not only on the results of the examination but on the class marks for the year. Before calling up the boys to receive their books, he said he knew one school which took as its motto, "Virtue is its own reward," and whenever a boy did well he got no mark, but did when he failed in his duty. No doubt that was perfectly right in theory. The committee of this school took a broader view of human nature and the motives which influenced men, and used the stimulus of rewards to encourage the scholars in their studies. It was not to be presumed that those lads who did not receive prizes had not tried to do their best, but a certain number had been selected in order to lead others to work their hardest in seeking to attain knowledge. He trusted that they would all have the testimony of their own consciences that they deserved what they were about to receive.

In addition to the prizes a rose was given to each successful pupil and formed a pleasant feature in the distribution.

The Rev. J. A. MACFADYEN, of Manchester, delivered the annual address to the parents and pupils. After expressing his pleasure at being present at a school which boldly took the name of a Nonconformist Grammar School, he asked the boys to think of their future life as being a great school, and substantially the sort of characters that they developed at the school were those that they were likely to have when they entered the great world. God, in the great school of life, had prizes for those who were obedient to Him and did their work thoroughly, just as there were prizes for those boys who did the work here. There were laws affecting the government of appetite. Charles V., Emperor of Germany, gained a great number of prizes in the school of life, but there was one thing in which he was weak—he could not govern his appetite, and so, when he became an old man and was not able to move about, being afflicted with gout, his courtier gave him the rebuke, "Shut your mouth and your gout will be better." That was the prize which the Emperor missed. There were also laws affecting health which if observed would give healthy lives, but if neglected would entail disease. Pascal was one of the wisest and holiest of men, but he forgot that the body was to be treated as a friend of the mind and not be governed as its slave, and in consequence his life was a short one and was passed in great misery. Other laws affected the discovery of truth and the development of the mind, and if these were obeyed men would get strong, healthy, happy minds. The great law of concentration applied all through life, and especially to business matters. If a man frittered away his energies and his powers on half-a-dozen things he would become a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none. Perseverance was another law to which God had attached great and valuable prizes. To punctuality the same remark applied. One of the first principles to be learnt in life was to do the right thing at the right time. Diligence, industry, conscientiousness, courage, were similar laws. In this world it was courage that gained the prize. Pluck was luck. People talked about chance and accident, but there was no such thing. Everything in this respect under God depended upon a man's self. The reverend gentleman enlarged at some length on the necessity for the manifestation of courage in the school of life, and after several amusing illustrations, concluded with an eloquent reference to the memorable loss of the Birkenhead in 1852 as instancing the possession of high courage notwithstanding the fact that the prizes of success did not attend it.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to the headmaster and his assistants.

Rev. W. DORLING seconded the motion. There were virtues, he said, which belong to childhood far more than to manhood, and he did not like cultivating in boyhood virtues which only came into vogue in later years; but one virtue was of singularly great importance in boyhood—namely, honour. Nelson was the favourite hero of boys because he had something about him which made him even to his latest day a kind of boy. In his young days he did his utmost when his honour was trusted to, and the same spirit kept him fighting on and on and inspiring the courage and resolution of England in the darkest hour of her history. He urged, then, the boys of the Bishop's Stortford School to sustain the honour of their school, and give it an honourable position and power amongst the schools of England. Let them strive to make it known that if a boy came to this school he entered an arena in which honour was nurtured and cultivated. Above all things they must scorn a lie. Mr. Binney some twenty-five years ago at Mill Hill said, "You must never come within a mile of a lie." Let them try and imitate "Tom Brown" as well as they could, and scorn all that was mean and false. In conclusion he spoke in the highest terms of the headmaster, the Rev. R. Alliott and his work.

The resolution was cordially agreed to.

The Rev. R. ALLIOTT, in returning thanks for the compliment on behalf of himself and colleagues, said that they had in common an earnest desire to discharge to the best of their ability their duty in regard to those who were committed to their care. He thought that those who were unsuccessful in taking prizes were sometimes sympathised and condoled with too much, because he knew there were boys in the school who had not got prizes because they did not deserve them. He felt more and more that the headmaster should not submit to anything like determinate laziness on the part of a boy, but should act on Dr. Arnold's motto and know when to remove such a boy from the school.

At the conclusion of the complimentary votes, the friends adjourned to the new building, commonly used as a play-room in wet weather, where about 150 sat down to a cold collation.

After the usual loyal toasts,

The CHAIRMAN proposed "Prosperity to the East of England Nonconformist Grammar School," by the establishment of which, he said, a necessity had been supplied which was previously strongly felt. The success of the school justified this belief. They had been financially successful, but a more valuable consideration was that they were rearing up sterling men who would maintain the great principles of Nonconformity

The Rev. W. CUTHBERTSON, whose name had been coupled with the toast, referred to the difficulties which were experienced at the outset of the undertaking, and contrasted them with the present flourishing condition of the school.

Mr. S. P. MATTHEWS also replied to the toast.

The CHAIRMAN next referred to the question of scholarships, and invited subscriptions in order to establish four, and the result of his appeal warmly supported by other gentlemen present, was that a sum of 45*l.* a-year for three years was promised to make up the existing deficiency.

Other toasts followed, and after tea in the dining hall this agreeable annual gathering terminated.

Last year the girls' school was also visited, but it is at present closed for repairs. It will reopen on Sept. 7th under the care of Miss Lewin, late of Milton Mount College, and a new staff of teachers, and early in that month a public gathering will be held in which several eminent ministers and laymen are expected to take part. The curriculum of the girls' school will in future be based on the requirements of the Syndicate of Cambridge. and the Art and Science Department, South Kensington.

MILL HILL SCHOOL.

Yesterday was New Foundation Day at Mill Hill, and though, on account of the day having had to be postponed till the end of term, the programme was considerably shorter, and presumably less attractive than in previous years, a goodly company went down to witness the distribution of the prizes and to enjoy the various good things provided for their delectation.

The natural attractions of the spot were greatly enhanced by the glorious weather, which, though warm, was not as oppressively hot as it had been during the two or three previous weeks, and such of the guests as were enabled to spare time for a stroll through the grounds found it particularly enjoyable. They could hardly fail to be interested in some of the notable trees which form a special feature of the grounds. Foremost among these are the two immense Portugal laurels — believed to be unique of their kind—the circles covered by which, seventy and fifty feet in diameter, unite and form a bower with a length of 127 feet, and an area of 5,000 square feet. Then there are the famous cedars, associated by tradition with the name of Linnæus, and known to have been planted by the great botanist, Peter Collinson, Linnæus's friend and host when in England. Besides these are two Spanish chestnuts of great size, and other uncommon trees particularised in an interesting article, by Mr. R. J. Hodgson, in the current number of the *Mill Hill Magazine*—a periodical now in its fourth volume, and kept up with remarkable vigour and ability. On the lawn and in the play-field were bowls, croquet, quoits, &c.; while within the building were exhibited drawings, collections of plants and insects, specimens of writing, &c. Tea, coffee, and summer fruits were liberally provided in the dining-hall, where there was also a short performance of choral music, conducted by Mr. C. R. Niederheitmann, professor of music to the institution, and accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. Emery. Rossini's "Dal tuo stellato soglio," Miss Macirone's "Sir Knight," and Miss Agnes Zimmerman's "Come, follow me," though delivered amidst a buzz of conversation and the clattering of cups and saucers, sufficed to show the excellent musical training of the performers; and a second performance, which took place in the portico under more favourable conditions, and included Hatton's "Belfry Tower," the "Gipsy Chorus" from *Preciosa*, and other favourite pieces, displayed the abilities of the conductor, accompanyist, and performers to even better advantage.

At five o'clock the company adjourned to the chapel to witness the distribution of the prizes and certificates, which pleasant task was undertaken by William Huggins, Esq., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., President of the Royal Astronomical Society, &c., who was supported by R. F. Weymouth, Esq., D.Lit., the headmaster; the Rev. R. Harley, F.R.S., the vice-master; J. A. H. Murray, Esq., LL.D., vice-president of the Philological Society, assistant-master, and the other masters. The company included the Rev. Dr. Boyd, the Rev. Dr. Hamilton (of Brighton), the Rev. Alexander Hannay, the Rev. J. De Kewer Williams, Dr. H. Gervis, Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith, H. Spicer, Jun., Esq., W. H. Wills, Esq., &c. The central seats were occupied by the boys, whose healthy and cheerful appearance bore ample testimony to the excellence of the domestic and sanitary arrangements of the institution, while their keen interest in the proceedings was manifested by frequent applause of that hearty and vigorous character for which schoolboys are famous.

Dr. WEYMOUTH having briefly introduced Dr. Huggins, and expressed a hope that the boys would endeavour to emulate his lofty attainments, proceeded to read a list of distinctions gained during the past year by former scholars of Mill Hill. The names included E. D. Marten, of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A.; J. H. Best, First B.Sc., first in third class honours in zoology; C. W. Cunnington, First B.Sc.; T. A. Gurney. First B.A., seventh in first-class honours in English; W. Marston, First B.A., third in second-class Latin, fifth in second-class French; T. E. Scrutton, second B.A., second-class honours in logic and moral philosophy, second-class honours in classics; H. M'K. Wood, second B.A., second-class honours in logic and moral philosophy; Arthur Edwards, second at Cirencester Agricultural College; Arthur Read Ropes, matric. January, 1876, first in honours, scholarship of £30 a year for three years. W. A. Statham, matric., seventeenth in honours (number of marks qualifying for prize); James Perram Scrutton, matric., first division (Mill Hill School and University College, London); Robert Temperley, open scholarship, £40 a-year for three years at Queen's College, Cambridge. The list terminated with the name of Henry Weston Eve, Esq, M.A., appointed headmaster of University College School, London, and who had studied at Mill Hill from August, 1848, to Michaelmas, 1852; and Dr. Weymouth did not see why he should not add the name of R. Micklem, who had been made captain of his college boat, New College, Oxford.

This list was received with loud applause, and at its conclusion Dr. Huggins proceeded to deliver the prizes, which included a large number of well-selected and handsomely-bound books, volumes of music, telescopes, cases of mathematical instruments, boxes of water-colours, &c. The Doctor accompanied the distribution in several instances with brief and appropriate remarks, suggested by the nature of the prize itself or the branch of study for which it was given. The applause throughout was frequent and hearty.

Dr. HUGGINS then briefly addressed the boys, offering his warmest congratulation to the prize-winners, in regard not so much to the books or the relative distinctions they had gained, as to the qualities of head and heart which had enabled them to achieve success. To those who had failed, let the voice of conscience speak; and if it told them that they had honestly done their best, let them find comfort in that assurance, but if conscience charged any of them with having failed in the patient continuance in well-doing, essential to success, let their present sorrow work repentance. Throughout life, they must not set honours, or distinctions, or wealth, before them as their direct aim, but let all things external to themselves be of secondary importance, and set up the winning-post, as it were, within themselves. What a man *is*, not what he *has*, should be his highest concern. Let them be generous, noble, loving, helpful to their generation, and let that most tuneful of songsters, a good conscience, ever discourse sweet music within

them. School-life had been compared to the cultivation of a garden, but it might be more correctly described as the making of the soil. It was far less important to master even the most important of school-studies than to take care what kind of *mind* they were making for themselves. One great object of school education should be to form the seeing eye and the understanding heart; and one means of giving the power of seeing to the eye was the study of Nature. The study of botany was to be particularly recommended, as strengthening the power and habit of minute observation. The study of natural history was of great value, and in taking an interest in those matters, they would provide themselves with a life-feast of which they would never cloy. But they must, at the same time, remember to give diligent study to classics and mathematics, without which their knowledge would have no foundation to rest upon. As the weather was warm, Dr. Huggins would not prolong his remarks, but conclude by wishing them all happiness during their coming holidays.

The Rev. R. HARLEY proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Huggins, whom he had often met at the British Association and elsewhere. It was his first visit to Mill Hill, but he hoped that it would not be his last. The prizes had never been so gracefully or ably distributed, and he hoped that the presentation, especially of the telescopes, might produce some future Dr. Huggins from the ranks of the school.

The vote was seconded by Dr. MURRAY, who had been a fellow undergraduate with Dr. Huggins in the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. HUGGINS in returning thanks acknowledged the great pleasure his visit had afforded him. Education was carried on at Mill Hill precisely as it ought to be. Classics and mathematics were thoroughly taught, though it was not an old-fashioned grammar school, but properly cultivated the studies of observation.

The following is the prize list:—

Good Conduct Prize, awarded partly by the Votes of the Boys.—Joseph Robson Tanner. Honourable Mention was deserved by Richard Joshua Wells.

UPPER SCHOOL PRIZES.

Awarded to boys who passed the Cambridge local examinations at the Mill-hill Centre, in December, 1875, with honours. (These prizes were partly the gift of the school, partly paid for by the committee of the Mill-hill Centre out of the surplus of fees over expenditure.)

Juniors in First-class Honours.—Frederic William Bennett, James William Bennett, Ernest Hampden Cook, Harold Harley, Thomas Henry Field Lapthorn, Ernest Edmund Maddox, Owen Seaman, Joseph Robson Tanner.

Juniors in Second-class Honours.—Frederick Stuart Bates, Henry Lawrence Fraser, Richard John Hodgson, Everett Leonard.

Juniors in Third-class Honours.—George Elliott, Edwin Walter Lapthorn, John Tom Robinson, Edgar Robson Tanner, Frank Hamilton Townend.

FORM PRIZES.

Awarded to those Forms which were not sent in to the Cambridge Local Examinations.

Upper Third Form.—Percy Edwards, George Herbert Snashall, Marshall St. John Walsh.

Lower Third Form.—Herbert Soames Jackson, John Bruce Moffat, Arthur Jaffray Hamilton, Henry Jackson.

Second Form.—Richard Henry Weymouth, Thomas Parrington, George Augustus Weymouth, Gilbert Gladstone Stewart, Henry Eyles Lewis.

First Form.—Edwin George Salter, John Thornton, Charles Sanders Wright, Thomas Egerton Bryant.

EXTRA PRIZES.

The "Edward Sheffield Prizes."

1. For Proficiency in the Languages, Literature, History, and Antiquities of Ancient Greece and Rome, Harold Harley.

2. As above, open only to Boys under Fourteen, Alfred Lockhart Hannay.

For English Verse, to boys under sixteen, given by the Head-Master (Subject, the Field of the Cloth of Gold, in ballad style), Harold Harley.

For English Literature, to boys under sixteen, given by the Head-Master, William Ryland Dent Adkins.

For Mathematics, First Prize, given by the Vice-Master, awarded by J. M. Lightwood, Esq., B.A., Thomas Henry Field Lapthorn.

For Mathematics, to boys not in the Sixth Form, Second Prize given by Warren Hall, Esq., awarded by J. M. Lightwood, Esq, B.A., Ernest Edmund Maddox.

For Mathematics, to boys under fifteen, given by the Vice-Master, awarded by J. M. Lightwood, Esq., B.A., Henry Temperley and Owen Seaman.

For Scripture Knowledge, given by B. Scott, Esq., F.R.A.S., Chamberlain of the City of London, awarded by the Rev. H. M. Gunn, Samuel Lavington Hart.

For Scripture Knowledge, Second Prize, given by R. Bennett, Esq., awarded by the Rev. H. M. Gunn, Everett Leonard.

For the Greek Text of the New Testament, given by the Secretary, the Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., and awarded by the Rev. G. Snashall, B.A., divided between Harold Harley and Joseph Robson Tanner.

For Proficiency in the German Language, given by F. W. Field, Esq., awarded by Dr. Murray, Frank Hamilton Townend.

For Writing, given by the Treasurer, T. Scrutton, Esq., Frank Stanley Ogilvie.

Writing Prize to Boys under thirteen, given by the Headmaster, awarded by the Assistant Masters, Richard Henry Weymouth.

For Best Collection of British Plants, given by one of the Old Boys, Thomas Rudolph Dallmeyer.

For Best Collection of Insects, given by one of the Governors, Thomas Rudolph Dallmeyer and William Morgan Jones.

For Singing, given by Wallis Nash, Esq. Solo Singing, Albert Edward Rook. Choral Singing, Joseph Henry Ball, Charles Herbert Bedells, Arthur Riley Crossley, Edward Jones Crossley, Allen Doulton, James Henry Gibson, Henry Dewar Malcolm, Albert Edward Rook.

For Natural Philosophy, to the Lower School, given by J. A. H. Murray, Esq., LL.D., B.A., F.E.I.S., and awarded by the Vice-Master, for Michaelmas Term, 1875, Herbert Soames Jackson; for Lent Term, 1876, Sidney Smith Dallmeyer.

For Early English, given by the Early English Text Society, and awarded by Dr. Murray, Reginald Burnet Morris.

For Drawing, given by G. Brightwell, Esq., Frank Stanley Ogilvie and Arthur Riley Crossley.

For Shakespeare, given by the New Shakespeare Society, and awarded by Dr. Murray, Richard John Hodgson.

"IN MEMORIAM" PRIZES.

1. On Obtaining Scholarships Tenable at the School.—Seniors—Harold Harley and Joseph Robson Tanner. Juniors—Herbert Soames Jackson and Percy Edwards.

2. On Passing the Cambridge Local Examinations without Honours.—Seniors—Arthur Riley Crossley, Thomas Rudolph Dallmeyer, David Joseph Maybery, Reginald William Potter, Frank Samuel Preston, Oliver Puckridge, Frederic Scrutton, Ravenscroft Elsey Smith, Herbert William Southcombe, and Richard Joshua Wells. Juniors—William Ryland Dent Adkins, William Henry Anscombe, William Henry Brown, Arthur Herbert Crow, George Clarendon Hamilton, Charles Robinson Lees, Richard Pigott, Edward Pearce Powell, John Baldwin Ritchie, Robert Vernon Saddington.

Silver Medal for English Essay, given by Gentlemen formerly educated at the School, and awarded by the Rev. Joseph Angus, D.D.—Junior, Harold Harley. Senior, E. E. Maddox.

Correspondence.

NEW GUINEA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—New Guinea seems to be attracting some attention in the commercial and scientific world. The Christian public, your readers, are not, I hope, less interested in it as a field for missionary enterprize. Will you give me a little space for information about our work here, its difficulties and prospects?

We want the intelligent sympathy and genuine prayers of Christians to aid us in our lonely work here, but we cannot expect these unless the dark as well as the bright side of our work is known. My report may have less of the *couleur de rose* than have many published missionary reports, but what of that? Missionary life isn't all of that brilliant hue, and certainly is made up of light and shade, quite as much as Christian life in other parts of the Master's vineyard.

Mrs. Lawes and I landed here a year ago last November, so that we have now been living sixteen months among New Guinea savages, and alone so far as English society is concerned. My colleague Mr. McFarlane is still living at Somerset in Queensland; this is undesirable but unavoidable. No more suitable place has yet been found for the headquarters of our steamer and the Papuan branch of the mission.

Five Rarotongan teachers had been living some ten months here when we arrived. They had not done much, no school had been begun, no building erected for public worship, and they had made no plantation for themselves. Their work seems to have been confined to two preaching services on the Sabbath, and half of this in an unknown tongue. Six Rarotangan and five Ninean teachers accompanied us, so that our entire staff consisted of one European missionary an sixteen South Sea Island teachers. Of these I am sorry to say seven have died during the past year; one woman and child makes the total of deaths nine. The climate is not so unhealthy as this large number of deaths would seem to indicate. Previous disease and a deficiency of physical stamina must be credited with some of the mortality.

We have now eight stations occupied by teachers in this branch of the mission. The tangible results of two years' work are few and small. The Sabbath has never been observed, and the few natives who are the most hopeful have no regard for it. We have put up a temporary chapel; it is very small, but too large for our usual congregations. Mrs. Lawes was the first white lady the people had seen, and curiosity brought some for a few Sundays to our open-air service, but even then the largest congregation would not have numbered a hundred. Our average attendance is about six adults. Rarely have I seen the slightest interest manifested in any religious truth about which we had been preaching or talking—apathy and indifference prevails, and seems even greater than it was.

We have begun a school and a few little girls are pretty regular in attendance, but they want to be paid for coming, and are now threatening a strike unless we give them something in payment. There are, however, some results more hopeful. I have translated a portion of Old and New Testament History and made a few hymns. The words of these are well known and the tunes partially. As they all contain important truths, knowledge is being spread by their means. The people have learnt to respect us and look upon us as their friends. There is a marked difference in this matter. A year ago they were suspicious of us, and doubtful of our object; now they have some sort of affection for us. My name and the object of our mission is more or less known far and wide. This is an important commercial and political centre. Tribes from east and west, as well as from the interior, come here frequently, and carry away with them tidings of the wonderful white man and his doings. Such is a brief sketch of our work and its results, or non-results, for the past two years.

Your readers may be interested in knowing a little about the people among whom we are living. They have a worse name than they deserve. The natives of this part of New Guinea are savages indeed; but they are a mild species of that genus. They are copper-coloured, and belong without doubt to the same race as Eastern Polynesians. They hold cannibalism in abhorrence. It is common though to the west among the black race. There are eleven villages speaking the same language as Port Moresby. I have been amused to see "the language of New Guinea" spoken of in more than one article and letter about this land. Nowhere, I should think, has the curse of Babel fallen so heavily as here. Within a radius of sixty miles from this no fewer than twelve languages are spoken. This will be a great hindrance to the diffusion of knowledge. The country is barren, and during some months of the year the people are very hungry. There is a pretty equal division of labour between the sexes, the women are by no means down-trodden or oppressed, although plenty of hard work falls to their lot. Polygamy is but little practised. It is approved in theory, but not much carried out in practice. Only three or four in the villages here have two wives, and I only know two chiefs in other villages who can boast of five each. One of the chiefs asked me the other day why I, a great chief (!), had only one wife, "Why didn't I bring ten?" I replied by asking him why he had only one? "Oh!" says he, "she has got such a tongue, I daren't have any more!" I gave him a better reason for my not having a plurality, although from his knowledge of my wife he may not have thought it so conclusive as his. All seem very fond of their children, and do not neglect them at all.

This is a country of kleptomaniacs—they are born so, and they grow so. The children at a very early age take a prominent part in the depredations of the family. Such thieves and such beggars I never saw, and they are clever too; if they could only be introduced to the London fraternity they could not help rising to distinction in either profession. They would need very few lessons to perfect them in either art. I have no horrible heathen vices to write about. As usual in heathen countries human life is held cheaply, hence a murder does not attract much attention, but any English paper contains an account of blacker crimes than we know here. The people for the most part live a happy, easy life, free from care and anxiety. And so for the matter of that do the kangaroos in the bush. There is not so much difference between the two, both are purely and simply animal. The Gospel and that alone can make men of them, and surely, surely we do not need tales of wretchedness and misery, or descriptions of horrible viciousness to awaken our interest and touch our hearts! To miss in this life all that the Gospel brings, and to lose in the next all that it promises, constitutes a claim strong enough upon us who have the Gospel apart from any command of His who gave it us. The natives have no religion of their own, no temple, priest, or god. This total absence of religious feeling is one of our greatest difficulties in trying to bring the truth to bear upon them. We seem to have nothing to start with, nothing to work upon. All are inveterate smokers; they would care little about a description of heaven unless it contained an unlimited supply of tobacco. I suppose I can safely tell them that those who are there have as much *as they want*.

I have made two journeys into the interior to the mountain tribes. It is quite a mistake to suppose New Guinea densely populated; it is, so far as this S E. part is concerned, very thinly populated. The villages are small, few, and far between.

As regards the future, we hope this year to receive a large number of teachers from our old stations on the South Sea Islands. There will be no difficulty in finding openings for them. From Yule

Island to Hood Point there are many villages, all of which would gladly receive teachers. We expect to go as far as China Straits, in the Ellengowan, in the course of a few months; from what we hear about the coast from Hood Point we shall probably find a considerable population, as kindly-disposed as the people here. A larger field for missionary effort we could not wish. We shall have to combat fever and ague wherever we go. This is the most healthy place we know yet, and it is not likely we shall find a better farther east.

Shall we ask in vain for the sympathy and prayers of the Church that the Holy Spirit may be poured out, that this great land may be won for Christ?

You seem to have been blessed with a revival of religious feeling in England—shall we not see its fruits in a largely-increased interest in the evangelisation of the world?

W. G. LAWES.

Port Moresby, New Guinea,
March 9, 1876.

SMALL COUNTRY CHURCHES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The letter of the gentleman with the loud-sounding Latin title (*alias* a country minister), in your issue of the 19th, expresses concisely but well, the feelings of very many similarly situated, only, when the unhappy complainant can bowl forth his Latin in that fashion, the matter assumes really a serious and threatening aspect! Let us hope that, as in the case of the present writer, whose pecuniary support has never reached 100*l.* yet, his being "in vico rustico," has at least this advantage, that he has time to keep his Latin and Greek (and of course Hebrew) well in hand.

But, Sir, the subject is too serious for joking, after all. As I have taken the liberty *not* to get married, I can "grin and bear it;" but even I, with my 80*l.* or 90*l.* and a little manse, find it a hard pull sometimes, and when only yesterday I ordered my new coat (and I try to get a good one when I am about it), it was with a strong twinge of conscience as to whether I ought not rather to appear before my people shabbily dressed than run the risk of something worse. Oh, Sir, would that our rich members of congregations, to whom it makes little difference whether a thing costs sixpence or a shilling, did but *realise* that these are the alternatives of numbers of our hardworking rural ministers, viz., poverty of living either in food or clothing, or both, and *debt!*—this latter of all things the most horrible, and more to be dreaded by a sensitive mind than pain or death. How men with a wife and family, like our Latin friend, do live, in such conditions, passes my comprehension; and I do not think I am extravagant, for my expenses for food, &c., rarely exceed thirteen shillings per week. How many people there are who themselves can go about this hot weather in the lightest garb, who forget that it is considered an offence against ministerial decency (never mind about dignity!) for us to go out in anything but the orthodox black, when they give their—perhaps reluctant—guinea to the minister's support. When will such effete superstitions be quite abandoned? or indeed, *would* it be better for a Nonconformist minister to be able to go about dressed "anyhow"? If poor dinners, cheap clothing, and a meagre library, are good for a minister, "that he may be kept humble," as has been so often urged, why should not the wealthy advocates of the system themselves try it, since it is certain that without the grace of humility even they will not enter the Kingdom?

Sir, I write the more freely because my own people do nobly, and are not to be judged by the sum they raise—for, what are our social conditions? If I were to lay them before your wealthy large-town readers, I think they would have quite a new idea of what is meant by "stamping out Dissent," and the "struggle for existence" in our rural districts. It means this:—that, unless large churches *do* help, or God specially intervenes, our country churches *must die*.

Yours truly,
PATIENS.

LORD MACAULAY AND THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—In the *National Church* for this month there is a letter headed "Lord Macaulay and the Established Church," from the Rev. George F. H. Rowe, curate, Bradford. Not having had the opportunity of reading Mr. Trevelyan's "Life of Lord Macaulay," I cannot deal at length with Mr. R.'s letter, but I am wishful to place before your readers an extract from an able article in the June number of *Fraser's Magazine*, on Lord Macaulay, to which the letters "J. A. F." are attached, which I presume stand for J. A. Froude.

At p. 685 of *Fraser*, "J. A. F." refers to Lord Macaulay's treatment of Archbishop Cranmer, and the subject of Catholic emancipation. When a young man, Lord Macaulay advocated this measure, and I may say it was well for the peace of Ireland that it was carried in 1829, and before the first Reform Bill was passed. The passage I wish to quote is as follows:—

"Political sympathy awoke in Macaulay an admiration of the Church and the Catholic system. It inspired his famous simile of the New Zealander. When he read 'Manzoni,' he felt a passing regret that he could not follow John Henry Newman, and be converted. This curious phase in his character is another illustration of the completeness with which he represented the tendencies of his age. He detested the Church of England. He respected the Kirk of Scotland. He respected the English Dissenters. He regarded the Establishment as essentially connected with every evil and mischievous influence which, for the three centuries of its existence, had obstructed the progress of the country. Cranmer was chiefly responsible for the existence of it. In Cranmer, therefore, he saw embodied every vice which can make human character execrable."

In Lord Macaulay's estimate of Cranmer I do not unite, but it is not necessary to consider that matter in this letter. What I contend for is this, there are strong reasons for the statement that Lord Macaulay "detested the Church of England," as an Establishment, for it would be absurd to suppose he detested it as a religious organisation. Has Mr. R. read Macaulay's article which first appeared in the *Edinburgh Review* on Mr. Gladstone's work in favour of the Union of Church and State? I do not contend that all the utterances of Macaulay can be harmonised, but it is an injustice to him to pronounce him, as in every respect, a pro-Establishment man. Instead of abusing Liberationists, let advocates of Church Establishments try to answer the clear and cogent reasoning of this masterly essay. I distinctly remember some of the speeches of Macaulay when he contested this borough, and during the short time he was member for Leeds. All his addresses in this town were able, manly, and eloquent. Were he now living, and had to deal again with some of the pleas for the maintenance of the Church, as an Establishment, the probability is that he would repudiate them and crush them with that strong common sense and logical ability which he so often manifested.

J. ANDREW.

Leeds, July, 1876.

THE BARLING CATECHISM AND ITS AUTHOR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Observing in the *Noncon.* about a fortnight since, that you stated the above catechism was in its eighth edition, and residing, as I do, within five miles of Barling, I, with a friend, walked over yesterday morning to hear the Rev. Mr. Gace.

The church has evidently been newly benched within the last few years and would seat I should say about 200 people.

There were present just twenty adults and nineteen children, including the choir, his own family, myself, and friend, though the village, I suppose, has a population of some 500 or 600. The singing and chanting were simply execrable.

The prayers seemed to me to be gabbled over, though the rev. gentleman is a tolerably good reader. On the right hand of this Barling priest stood a woman dressed in the peculiar garb of a Roman Catholic nun. The sermon, if it can be called a sermon, was just eight minutes in delivery! and I must decline to attempt to describe it. Suffice it to say, in my humble opinion, it was in its teaching and influence much worse than useless. I was informed that some of the farmers drive to the neighbouring churches, and many of the poor attend the Primitive Methodists. And this is the man, forsooth, who has the audacity to say that us "Noncons." "worship God according to our own evil and corrupt imaginations," &c., and devout and earnest Churchmen ask, "What should we do in the rural villages if the Church was disestablished?" I say we should do much better without it.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
THOMAS CRAWLEY.

Cromwell-place, Southend, July 24, 1876.

THE VILLAGE OF HILLESDEN, BUCKS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an article in the *Berks and Oxon Advertiser*, headed, "How the State Church works in our Villages," purporting to be taken from the *Nonconformist*. Will you allow me to say, in reply, that in the whole of that article there is scarcely one word of truth, or a single statement for which there is so much as a shadow of foundation. The facts of the case are simply these:—During the five years that I have been settled in this parish, it has been my custom to give an annual treat, on my lawn, to the children attending the Sunday-school, thus bringing in those boys who had left the daily school for farm work. This is exactly what I did on June 30 last, as usual, after the afternoon school was over; and so, of course, such children as were then attending a Sunday-school in a neighbouring village, and who had had a treat there a few days before, were not invited. It would have been unfair to the other children, that they should thus have got two treats, for themselves one. But the whole story of their being told that "they deserved a sound whipping for going to a 'chapel' school," of their being "ordered to attend on the Friday afternoon to see the favoured ones feast," with "a threat of a severe caning if they did not do so," and of their being "sent empty away, after seeing the other children have their meal," is all a pure fabrication. Perhaps I ought to add that until about a year ago all the children in this parish had always attended the Sunday-school here, but that since about that time a grocer in a neighbouring village, who calls himself a "free-thinker," has been in the habit of coming here to supply some of the cottagers with groceries, and he has made use of the hold which this has given him over some of the parents (scarcely any of whom are Nonconformists) to draw away their children to a Sunday-school with which he is connected, and it is from this individual that the false statements, to which you have given currency in your columns, have originated. With reference to the statement that "the children at this day-school, by their attendance, earn a Government grant, which, with the children's pence, nearly covers the expenditure," I beg to say that, without setting down anything for rent of the schoolhouse and teacher's residence—which the owner of the estate has built, at a cost of some 800*l.*, and allows us the gratuitous use of—the cost of supporting the school during the school-year just ended has been 66*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* The children's pence amounted to 5*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, the Government grant to 12*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, and the voluntary contributions of the owner of the estate, his tenants, and myself, to 48*l.* 10*s.* As the contributors are all Churchmen, I think this may serve to show a little "How the State-Church works in our Villages."

I am, yours faithfully,
ROBERT HOLT.

Hillesden Vicarage, Buckingham, July 17.

[As the paragraph inserted in our number for July 12 showed, we only quoted from the *English Labourer*.—ED. *Noncon.*]

SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOL BOARDS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—When in the House of Commons on Thursday night the fact was paraded that there were 530 school boards which had built no schools, it might have been well had some hon. members been reminded of some of the reasons that account for the phenomenon. The school board in country districts has been, in many instances, formed at the instigation of the vicar to release him from the pecuniary burden the parish school had hitherto involved. Upon such board such vicar has very naturally managed to secure for his party the preponderance of power, and of course for himself the position of chairman. When the question of a school building has come up for discussion, he as chairman has taken it for granted that the old building a little renovated would do, and perhaps remarked that he would be very pleased to let it to the Board from 9 a.m till 5 p.m., from Mondays till Fridays. If, as in the case with the parish in which I reside, some one has suggested that a new building would be very far better, insuperable difficulties have been raised, and every possible influence to secure a decision to the contrary been employed. It is not very difficult, as one observes these peculiarities, for some of us to foresee that ere long these particular boards will be dissolved, and those parish schools which have been made worthy their name and which will still be sustained by national funds will be under private control. How

long, is it supposed, are Englishman to be thus befooled?

Sincerely yours,

July 22, 1876. W. H. E.

SKETCHES IN PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons, Tuesday Morning.

Late on Thursday night, when all the clauses of the Education Bill had been got through with more or less of amiability, and when the craft which Lord Sandon steered was sailing in smooth water, it suddenly struck upon a sandbank; on which it has up to the present moment of writing persistently and painfully stuck. Lord Sandon has throughout his management of the bill shown such imperturbable good temper, and such wise forbearance, that it is only reasonable to suppose he brought his bill to grief rather through ignorance than design. The difficulty arose on a new clause proposed by Mr. Pell, which provides for the dissolution of school boards in cases where there is no school-house or no site. As soon as the clause had been moved by Mr. Pell, Mr. Forster, with what appeared to be prophetic anxiety, expressed the hope that the Government had no intention of fathering this clause. The fact is, the little bird which flits about the lobbies and corridors of the House had brought to the front Opposition bench the information that the Government, anxious to conciliate a section of their followers, on what they had convinced themselves was not a very important matter, had decided to accept Mr. Pell's clause. Hence the closing up of the ranks on the Liberal side, the emphatic protest of Mr. Forster, and the ringing denunciation of Mr. Bright, who declared that it was impossible to conceive anything more reactionary upon the spirit of the Act of 1870 than was this clause of the member for Leicestershire.

Lord Sandon, quite taken aback at this demonstration of indignant opposition, mildly protested that there really was nothing in the clause—that it was, in fact, nothing but a garland laid on the altar of the great county deity—the rates. But the storm grew, and towards midnight, it being very evident that no further progress was to be made, progress was reported, and the committee adjourned till the following morning. On this (Friday) morning it was expected by the most cautious calculators that the bill would be finally through committee, and that the way would be clear for the programme set forth by Mr. Disraeli, by which Monday was to be given up to Committee of Supply, and succeeding days to the Prisons Bill. But if there had been any doubt on Thursday that the Opposition intended to oppose this clause to the utmost limits of Parliamentary warfare, such doubt was removed on Friday morning. For five hours, that is to say throughout the whole of the morning sitting, the clause was debated; nothing new being said on either side, the old arguments being stated and restated; the Liberals affirming that the clause was a masked attempt to abolish school boards, and the Conservatives declaring that it was nothing of the sort, it being merely a provision for getting rid of useless incumbrances. After wearily being waged all through Friday morning, the fight was renewed precisely on the same lines on Monday night, and some nominal progress was then made by the second reading of the clause being passed by a majority of 81, in a House of 361 members. This unusually large majority, it may be mentioned, was due chiefly to the Irish vote, which, of course, was polled in favour of a scheme which would work in favour of denominational education. This vote was, if we think of it, a singular commentary on the whole debate. Mr. Butt is, by common consent, one of the shrewdest men in the House, and sees as clearly as anyone the precise bearings of a controversy. When, after listening to a debate of three nights, Mr. Butt leads the Irish party into the lobby with the Government, the act at least affords some indication of the view taken of the matter at issue by a competent outsider.

Naturally, where a debate is interminably wound about a given and precise point, and has proceeded through many hours of midsummer weather, it may not be said of it that it has been of a highly-exciting, or profoundly-interesting character. It has, however, been remarkable for the interposition of Mr. Bright, who delivered two speeches, notably that of last night, in that scathing, almost fierce, style which assists the new generation to understand the passion that raged through the debates on the Reform Bill. Mr. Bright is not now, any more than he was thirty years ago, a sayer of soft things. He abstains, in marked manner, from the use of those cheap little nothings with which the two front benches interlard their speeches. There is something in the ringing metallic tone with which he goes straight at hon. gentlemen opposite that is peculiarly irritating, and no wonder that last night he brought up Mr. Mills in a state of unusual indignation to protest against what was perhaps the most notoriously matter-of-fact part of the right hon. gentleman's speech, viz., that in which he quoted instances of clerical intolerance in rural parishes.

On the lighter side we have had Mr. Whalley, whose mind has been peculiarly exercised by the Education Bill, and who has unconsciously played throughout the week the part of the clown in *Hamlet*. It will be difficult to say how many speeches Mr. Whalley has delivered on the matter whilst this bill has been in committee. To be analytically precise, it would perhaps be correct to say that he has delivered one. But his plunges into debate have been frequent, and have been marked by a liveliness of manner, and an unconscious comicality, for which the House has shown itself grateful, as manifesting themselves in an otherwise heavy debate. It is hard to get at what Mr. Whalley's view is precisely. To use his own description, he holds the policy of Lord Sandon to be "Algerine" in character. Also he detects clerical influence under all. The connection of the Jesuits with many matters of British interest, from the increment of the national debt to the Education Bill of 1870, has been largely dwelt upon by the hon. member, and more or less clearly demonstrated. Mr. Whalley is, in truth, growing more and more incoherent every session; but under all it is plain to see that he is honestly moved by a good sound English hatred of what he calls "clerical influence"; and it would be difficult to say that his protests and objurgations are altogether out of place, when he is discussing the Conservative Education Bill as amended by Mr. Pell.

This new phase of the Education Bill has altogether changed the aspect of this latter end of the session, and appears indefinitely to postpone the day of the prorogation. When last Thursday Mr. Disraeli made a statement on the business of the session, which included a declaration of the intention to pass the Education Bill, the Prisons Bill, the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, and the Universities Bills, it was then clear that, smaller bills apart, he had already mapped out more work than the House could reasonably get through by the 12th of August. That statement was made under the impression that the Education Bill would be disposed of last Friday. But on this (Tuesday) morning the Education Bill is a long way from being disposed of, whilst the spirit of the Opposition, last week mildly critical, is now obstinately hostile. Under these circumstances it would be rash to attempt to predict at what date Parliament will prorogue, or what will be the sum total of the work accomplished for the session.

THE WAR IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

The following telegram has been sent by the special correspondent of the *Daily News*:—"Paratjin, Friday.—It is needless to disguise that the present is a very critical period for the Servians. All seems to hinge on the successful issue of the attempt to strike Osman Pasha a crushing blow, force him back into Widdin, and so relieve the eastern frontier. The Turks are displaying unexpected strategic ability and cohesion of plan with a quick realisation of the situation. They were clearly aware of the withdrawal from about Nisch of a quarter of the troops for the support of Leschjanin, on the Saitschar front. They took advantage on Wednesday of this depletion to attack Uzun Mirkowitz, and although they are stated to have been repulsed, will probably renew the offensive on the south-eastern front, with perhaps the co-operation of the garrison of Nisch. Obviously the part they have recently assumed is energetic, the offensive everywhere, a policy which brings out in stronger relief the unfavourable character of the Servian territory lying open on three sides to an assailant. When the Servians contemplate the offensive, as in the case of Dutchitz against Nova Varosch, the Turks anticipate the movement by an attack. They seem determined on all sides to attempt to drive the Servians within their own frontier line—their intention, doubtless, in the assault on Olimpica' position between Belina and the Drina. Nowhere are the Servians more than one march outside their frontier. Nowhere have they improved one step on the original positions attained in the beginning of the month. Nowhere are they now the assailants except on the Saitschar front, if indeed there. I confess that to me the Servian prospects are gloomy. Where victory is claimed, as by Uzun Mirkowitz and Olimpica, victory consists merely in the repulse of an attack—in other words, in the avoidance of defeat. Not a foot of ground, and nothing save the barren result of holding their own is claimed even by themselves. Olimpica could not follow the Turks into Belina. Dutchitz could not win the heights of Nova Varosch behind the entrenchments of which he claims to have chased the Turks." In a later telegram it is stated that General Tchernayeff has arrived at Paratjin. According to another account there is no doubt the combined attacks of Hafi Pasha from Akpalanka, and Suleiman Pasha from Pirot, have forced Tchernayeff to withdraw from the position of Babina Glava and altogether from the Turkish territory. Another statement is that Tchernayeff has gathered together 15,000 Bulgarians, and that all the country as far as Sophia is in a state of rebellion.

On the reclamation of the Austrian Consul, the Servian Government has called in all military posts guarding the Danube from Belgrade to the Iron Gates, this service being superfluous, as the Porte has promised not to send the Danube flotilla beyond the mouth of the Timok, and also because these guards have repeatedly molested Austrian ships.

The following is from the same place, dated Monday:—"Another despatch to Prince Milan from Alimpics, respecting the battle of Popovo, says that the Bashi-Bazouks entered the field with a white flag having a cross on the top, and gave cheers for Prince Milan. This attempt at deception did not succeed. The Servian troops, consisting principally of volunteers, captured the Bashi-Bazouks and took the flag, besides a quantity of arms and materials of war. The Turks had 1,000 killed and wounded; the Servians thirty killed and 163 wounded. The Bosnian refugees in camp report that the Pasha who commanded at the battle of Medjusch has been replaced by another, who has brought with him three battalions of Redifs."

A telegram from Belgrade of the same date says:—"The Turkish bulletins state that on the 15th and 16th Tchernayeff was driven from his position at Babina Glava and Ak Palanka, after a severe engagement, in which the Servians lost heavily in men, ammunition, clothing, and cattle. Abdul Kerim Pasha dreams of victories where there has been no fighting. He entered the above-mentioned positions on the 10th, after they were voluntarily abandoned by the Servians, in consequence of new strategical combinations agreed upon at the Servian headquarters. As a sequence to these new arrangements Tchernayeff made a personal tour of inspection to Supovatz, Javor, and Saitchar. The Servian troops have lost no clothing, arms, or cattle; on the contrary, they have already armed several battalions of Bulgarian and Bosnian volunteers with Snider rifles captured from the Turks. The preceding is official."

THE OFFICIAL PAPERS ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The official correspondence respecting the affairs of Turkey and the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina was issued on Friday from the Foreign Office. It comprises 554 despatches, the dates of which range from January 30 to July 17 in the present year, the last despatch being that announcing the appointment of a Turkish commissioner to put down the excesses in Bulgaria. The correspondence begins with a report from Sir H. Elliot as to the system pursued in Montenegro respecting the insurrection, and a report from Consul-General White as to the Servian preparations for war. In a letter dated February 10 Sir H. Elliot reports the demands of the Sultan upon the Grand Vizier for funds, and Consul Freeman reports, February 3, the indifferent reception of the Imperial firman of reforms in the disturbed provinces, adding that the Government is certainly most unfortunate at the present moment in its selection of officials. Sir H. Elliot points out that the object of Servia is one of national aggrandisement simply, and a few days later reports that the Russian Consulate is the open resort of the insurgent chiefs, leading to the belief that the insurrection has the support of the Russian Government. This information Lord A. Loftus was instructed to communicate to the Foreign Minister at St. Petersburg, and Lord Derby states that he had informed the Russian Minister in London of other facts of similar import. Lord A. Loftus reported conversations with Prince Gortchakoff, the purport of which is that under no circumstances would Russia act alone. On Feb. 17 Sir H. Elliot announced that the Emperor of Russia has telegraphed in strong language to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro urging them to abstain from anything likely to defeat the efforts of the Powers for the pacification of the Herzegovina. A number of letters respecting the earlier progress of the Herzegovinian insurrection follow, and a memorandum by Consul-General Holmes is devoted to showing that the insurrection is the work of foreign agents. Lord A. Loftus reports, April 12, the desire of the Russian Government to secure peace, and on the 14th Prince Gortchakoff's anxiety that the proposals of the insurgents should not be summarily rejected. On the 20th, in an interview with Prince Gortchakoff, the latter used the expression, "*la parole est aux canons*," and expressed his anxiety to maintain the existing concert of the European Powers. In a conference of the French, German, Italian, Austrian, and British ambassadors at Prince Gortchakoff's, the latter announced that the Porte had decided to attack Montenegro, and urged that no time should be lost in giving due warning to the Government of the danger of this course. This intention is, however, disavowed by the Porte, and

on the 26th Prince Gortchakoff expressed his conviction that negotiations cannot be carried out on the basis of the Andrassy note. Communications pass between the French and English Foreign Offices to the effect that Montenegro should be called on to observe a strict neutrality. Further despatches as to the attitude of Montenegro follow. On May 10, Sir H. Elliot telegraphs that the presence of a squadron at Besika Bay would greatly contribute to the security of the Christians, and on the 11th he states that the English residents at Constantinople urge the presence of ships of war there, which request he gave them no reason to expect would be complied with. Orders, however, were given for a second gunboat to proceed to Constantinople, the stipulations of the treaty of 1841 being carefully observed, and other vessels are ordered to Besika Bay. Lord A. Loftus reports conversations with Prince Gortchakoff, and Lord Derby communicates the result of conversations with the Russian, Austrian, and German ambassadors in London. Finally, on May 19 Lord Derby writes to Lord Odo Russell, explaining the reasons which induce the Government to decline acceding to the Berlin Memorandum, as follows :—

The proposals entered in the memorandum are directed to pressing upon the Porte the establishment of an armistice for two months, with a view to direct negotiations between the Porte and the delegates of the insurgents on the basis of the wishes which the latter have expressed, and which have been thought fit to serve as points of departure from discussion. In the first place, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that they would not be justified in insisting upon the Porte consenting to an armistice without knowing whether the military situation admitted of its being established without prejudice to the Turkish Government, and without rendering necessary the exercise of greater efforts on the renewal of the campaign, and a consequent prolongation of the struggle. Moreover, the faithful observance of the armistice by both sides would have to be secured, since the Porte could not be well called upon to suspend operations against the insurgents while the insurrection was receiving support from Servia and Montenegro, and the insurgents were strengthening their position, recruiting their forces, and obtaining arms and supplies. The mere fact of the insurrection remaining unsuppressed would be likely to give it additional vitality, and the result of an armistice might therefore be to lead to a rejection of any demands which the Porte might fairly be expected to concede, and thus hinder rather than advance the prospects of pacification. At the same time Her Majesty's Government would not advise the Porte against acceding to an armistice should the Turkish Government consider that the political and military position admitted of it, and its result would be likely to be beneficial, although in view of the objections which I have mentioned and others of a similar character, which will readily occur to your excellency, Her Majesty's Government do not feel justified in recommending it to the Porte, still less in insisting upon its acceptance. In my despatch of the 15th inst. I have informed your excellency of some of the objections which I stated to Count Munster had occurred to me in regard to the five points which were proposed as a basis for negotiation between the Porte and the insurgents. A further consideration of the proposals has not led to any modification of the opinion. I then expressed Her Majesty's Government's doubt whether the Porte has the means of providing for the reconstruction of the houses and churches of the insurgents, or of finding subsistence for the returning refugees. If Her Majesty's Government are rightly informed, the cost would be very heavy, and the Porte has not the requisite funds at its disposal. The distribution of relief by such a commission as is contemplated would be little better than a system of indiscriminate almsgiving. It would probably be beyond the power of the Porte to adopt, and, if adopted, would prove utterly demoralising to any country. Her Majesty's Government do not mean to say that the Porte would not be wise in affording any practicable facilities and inducements for the return of the population who have quitted, or been driven from, their homes owing to the insurrection, but they do not consider that they can urge upon the Porte to undertake engagements the observance of which would be beyond its power. The concentration of Turkish troops in certain places would be delivering up the whole country to anarchy, particularly when the insurgents are to retain their arms. The consular supervision would reduce the authority of the Sultan to nullity, and without force to support it supervision would be impossible. Even if there were any prospect of the Porte being willing and able to come to an arrangement with the insurgents on the basis proposed, which Her Majesty's Government scarcely believe possible, an intimation with which the memorandum closes would render any such negotiation almost certainly abortive, for it could not be supposed that the insurgents would accept any terms of pacification from the Porte in the face of the declaration, that if the insurrection continued after the armistice the Powers would intervene further. Regarded in this light, the proposal of an armistice seems to Her Majesty's Government to be illusory.

In a subsequent despatch on the same day to Lord Odo Russell, Lord Derby says :—

Her Majesty's Government would have readily accepted the proposals had they appeared to them to afford a feasible plan for the pacification of the insurgent districts, but they cannot accept, for the mere sake of appearance, a concerted scheme, in the preparation of which they had not been consulted, and which they do not believe calculated to effect the object with which it has been framed.

Following this was a despatch to Sir H. Elliot, in which Lord Derby says :—

The Government have, since the outbreak of the insurrection, deprecated the diplomatic intervention of other Powers in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire, and cannot join the other Powers, since they feel that they cannot conscientiously advise the Porte to accept conditions which they cannot recommend as politic or feasible. They cannot conceal from themselves that the gravity of the situation has arisen in a great measure from the weakness and apathy of the Porte in dealing with the insurrection in the earlier stages, and from the want of confidence in Turkish statesmanship and powers of Government shown by the state of financial, military, and administrative collapse into which the country has been allowed to fall; and all that can be done by the English Government is to give such friendly counsel as circumstances may require. They cannot control events, to which the neglect of ordinary principles of good Government may expose the Turkish Empire.

On the 20th May Lord Odo Russell reports Prince Bismarck's conviction that Her Majesty's Government will not encourage the Turkish Government to oppose the combined efforts of the Powers for a speedy pacification. Then, on the 21st May, Rasched Pasha gives the views of the Turkish Government on the Berlin proposals. On May 23rd Mr. Adams reports that the Duc Decazes expressed extreme anxiety that Her Majesty's Government might find it possible to reconsider their decision, and that by acceding to an armistice, however short, some common ground might be found which would lead to a general concert of the six Powers. Lord Derby then expressed his regret at not being able to act in concert with France. The deposition of the Sultan on the 30th of May put a new complexion on affairs. Lord Derby instructs Sir H. Elliot to be watchful as to proposals for bringing fleets to Constantinople, and to inform the Government at once if such a proposal be mooted. Sir H. Elliot recommended the Porte to receive the Berlin proposals in a conciliatory spirit, and further not to employ Bashi-Bazouks. This the Porte declined, but consented not to use Circassians as irregulars. On June 16th Lord Derby telegraphed to Consul-General White to act in concert with the Austrian Consul in recommending a more peaceful policy to Prince Milan. On June 7th Lord Derby informs Sir A. Buchanan that the Powers have agreed to postpone action on the Berlin proposals, and again counsels moderation at Belgrade. On June 10th Lord Derby learned that the Emperor of Russia had warned the Prince of Servia that if, contrary to advice, he involved himself in a war with Turkey, not only had he no national assistance to expect from Russia, but that moral support and sympathy would equally be withheld. On June 14 Prince Gortchakoff gives the views of the Russian Government in Turkish affairs. The Emperor of Russia desired to maintain the political *status quo* by a genuine improvement in the lot of the Christian populations, and this appeared to the Russian Government to be an indispensable condition of the existence of the Ottoman Empire. On June 27 Sir Henry Elliot reports having suggested to the Turkish Ambassador that a slight rectification of frontier might be promised to the Prince of Montenegro if he exerted his influence to put an end to the insurrection. Lord Derby wrote to Count Schouvaloff on June 29, in answer to the Russian proposals. Lord Derby said :—

It might not be too late for the Powers, and especially for the Russian Government, to make a further effort to induce Prince Milan to abandon his policy of aggression. It was desirable that the Servian Government should be informed that if they attempted to secure territorial aggrandisement under the pretext of Slavonic sympathisers they must not expect to be protected from the consequences of such failure and defeat.

The whole of the correspondence in reference to the Bulgarian atrocities is given, but there is nothing beyond what has already been made public in the statements of the Prime Minister.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

King Alfonso, it is reported, is about to go to Santander to meet the ex-Queen Isabella.

The Spanish Congress has voted the bill suppressing the Fueros in Biscay. The Senate has approved the budget.

The wheat harvest in Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Galicia, and Hungary promises this year to be considerably above the average.

The King of Burmah is about to erect a new cotton mill of 20,000 spindles, to be carried out by an Englishman at a cost of 40,000*l.*

The *Morning Post* says that the delay in the ceremony which is equivalent to the coronation of the Sultan, is because His Majesty wishes at the same time to promulgate the new constitution and reforms.

The German Emperor left Salzburg on Friday for Gastein. On taking leave the Emperors kissed each other three times and shook hands most cordially.

The Greek Cabinet is preparing to enter a protest should the Porte carry out its intention of establishing a settlement of 70,000 Circassians near the Greek frontier.

The Duc Decazes has been raised to the rank of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour. The newspapers regard this distinction as a special mark of Marshal MacMahon's confidence in the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

An attempt to grapple the injured submarine cable between Port Darwin and Java has failed, and a movement is in progress in New South Wales for laying a new one by another route, which it is intended to subsidise by the Australian Colonies.

THE DROUGHT IN FRANCE.—*Galignani* states that the great drought which has prevailed for some days has done some mischief to the cereals. In the valleys of the Seine and Eure the crops which had been announced to be superb are partially burned up; the grain has not filled, it has hardened. This applies to the autumn-sown wheat; that put in the ground in the spring has not suffered so far. At the present moment the country districts offer a magnificent aspect; the harvest is general, sheaves of grain cover the ground, and farmers are hastening to have them stacked.

THE NEW LOAN FOR THE CITY OF PARIS is for 5,000,000*l.* sterling, and is divided into 20*l.* bonds, the issue price of which is 18*l.* 12*s.*, bearing interest at the rate of about 4½ per cent. On Saturday the subscriptions were opened. As early as Friday evening hundreds of people took up their positions before the different offices, passing the night on the pavement, to be the next morning at the head of the *queue* of subscribers. The subscription passed off very quietly. Paris alone has subscribed forty times the amount, and the country ten times, so that without the foreign subscriptions, the amount of which is not yet known, the loan has already been subscribed fifty times over.

GENERAL CIALDINI, the new Italian ambassador, was received on Saturday at the Elysée in public audience by the President of the Republic, to present his credentials. The Duc Decazes was present. General Cialdini, in his address to the President, expressed his pleasure at being brought into official relations with the Marshal, "for whom he had felt so lively an admiration at the tower of Malakoff, and to whom he had vowed gratitude on the field of Magenta." The President said these recollections moved him; they brought back to him a time of glorious confraternity in arms, when he had known the King of Italy and had appreciated his brilliant valour on the field of battle. He would do his utmost to aid the ambassador in sustaining the friendly feeling that was so necessary for the interests of the two countries.

PRESENT ASPECT OF CONSTANTINOPLE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—"A letter received here from Constantinople, and written by a person exceedingly well informed, says that the city is more than ever assuming a warlike aspect, and that the pavement re-echoes the sound of gun-carriages and baggage-wagons passing through the streets, the large Hungarian horses which draw them being the gift of pashas or rich functionaries. Masses of volunteers pass along the streets singing to the sound of music. These volunteers are for the most part fine fellows who must have suffered in the country from poverty, but who will soon recover on joining their regiments. The volunteers belong to all classes and all creeds who come to procure arms and necessaries; and upon this motley crowd a sun comes down capable of cooking eggs in three minutes. On the 10th no fewer than 15,000 volunteers had inscribed their names, and among these a large number of Softas and persons of note—Izzet Bey, for example, grandson of Fuad Pasha and son-in-law of the late Mustapha Fazyl Pasha (the great chief of the young Turkish party). The volunteers comprise about 3,200 Armenians and 850 Greeks. We note also the eldest son of Bib Doda Bey, one of the Catholic descendants of Scander Bey. It is said that all the Catholic tribes in Albania and a number of the Orthodox Albanians in the provinces are offering their services to the Porte, which accepts them. In addition to this the chiefs of the Christian communities in Constantinople, and particularly the Armenian Patriarch, have proposed to the Government to organise a national guard at their own expense, so that the War Minister may be able to send the zaptiehs to the frontier. This initiative on the part of the Christians to serve the Sultan is most remarkable, and will probably lead to an extension of military service to all the non-Mussulmans; for once the Christians have a musket they will probably keep it, and this will bring about equality of rights and recognition of a common country, &c."

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

The following is the list of the candidates who passed in honours at the June Matriculation Examination :—

1. John Chambers, Liverpool Institute; 2. James Dixon Pennington, Owens College; 3. Theodore Beck, Oliver's Mount School, Scarborough; 4. Alfred Ernest Steinthal, Owens College; 5. Dugald Sutherland MacColl, University College School; 6. John William Graham, Flounders College; *William Dewar, private study; *Arthur William Ward, Woodhouse Grove School and Wesley College; *John Alexander Peil, Liverpool Institute; 10. *Arthur David Davies, Congregational School, Lewisham; *Alfred Hughes, Manchester Grammar School and Owens College; *Ebenezer Leigh, Liverpool Institute; *Arthur Algernon Whitehead, Owens College; *William Patrick Whitaker, Stonyhurst College; 15. *Arthur Henry Mason, Amersham Hall School; *Edgar George Anthony Blount, Stonyhurst College; *Richard Talbot Cantilon, Oratory School, Birmingham; *John Walton Capstick, Flounders College; *Cornelius William Poole, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; 20. *John Willot, Chancery-lane School, Ardwick; *Alfred Barker, Borough-road Training College and private study; *Frederic Morti-

1. Exhibition of 30*l.* per annum for two years.
2. Exhibition of 20*l.* per annum for two years.
3. Exhibition of 15*l.* per annum for two years.
4. Prize of 10*l.*
5. Prize of 5*l.*
6. Prize of 5*l.*

* Obtained the number of marks qualifying for a prize.

mer Young, Cheltenham College and private tuition; *Joseph M'Grath, St. Stanislaus College, Tullamore; *James Grundy Ridsdale, New Kingswood School; 25, *Compton Theodore Galton, Beaumont College; *Robert Leonard, Kensington School and private tuition; *Wolf Defries, University College School; *Andrew Flynn, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; *Frederick Higgin, private tuition and study, and *Sidney Harris Cox Martin, Belmont House, Twickenham equal; 31, *Stuart Davidson, University College School; *Richard Basil Morley, private study and tuition, and *William Arthur Plant, Surrey County School, equal; Robert Travers Hereford, Chorlton High School and Owens College; 35, Charles Southall, Friends' School, York; Alfred Harker, Clewer House, Windsor; George Bernard Hoffmeister, Epsom College; Edwin Leonard Adency, Classical School, Reigate, and St. Bartholomew; William Henry Somervell, Grove House, Tottenham; 40, Reginald William Scully, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; David Buchanan, private study; Joseph Patrick Crowley, St. Stanislaus College, Tullamore; Thomas Gallon, Owens College; Oswald James Currie, Mission School, Blackheath, and University College School, and Arthur Henry Worthington, Rev. D. Davis's School, Lancaster, and Owens College, equal; 46, Charles Hardman Grafton, Stonyhurst College; William Dawson Ridley, University College School; Ralph Percy Ashton, Uppingham School and Owens College; Edwin Radford, University College School; John David M'Clure, Holly Mount College, Tottington, and Alonso Paul Sybrandt, Stonyhurst College, equal; William Evans, Independent College, Taunton, and Vincent Thomas Murché, private study and tuition, equal; 54, Arthur Buchheim, City of London School and private study; Frederick Herbert Lane, Epsom College; Augustin Henry Magill, St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; Edward Aloysius Carroll, St. Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool; Rupert Mason, Owens College; 59, Joseph Priestly, Manchester Grammar School and Owens College; John Williams Batterham, North London Collegiate School and private study, and Oliver Eaton Bodington, Giggleswick School and private tuition, equal; John Waghorn Webb Waghorn, private study; James Callan, Queen's College, Liverpool, and private study, and John Francis Sharkey Hughes, Stonyhurst College, equal; 65, Richard Watson Evans, Woodhouse Grove and New Kingswood School; Joseph Thomas Treleaven, private study; Samuel Neale, private study; John Henry Baldwin, Stonyhurst College; William Stevenson Meyer, University College School; William James Wright, private study; Charles Probart Whitaker, St. Catherine Hermitage, Bath; David Williams, Presbyterian College, Carmarthen; Henry Lewis Bellasis, Oratory School, Birmingham; Thos. Owens, University College of Wales, and George Fisher Williams, St. Peter's School, Wolverhampton, and Cheltenham Training College, equal; 76, Joseph Bernard Cahill, Stonyhurst College; John George Gretton, Beaumont College; William Ross, Clongroves Wood College, Clare; Clifford Grimshaw, Rhodes House and Owens College, and Croot Stone, private study and tuition, equal; 81, Edward Turner Hayle, Owens College; George Payne, private study, and Frank Belworthy Whitmore, King's College School, equal.

Epitome of News.

The Queen and Court are expected to leave Osborne for Balmoral about the middle of August.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by the King and Queen of the Hellenes, visited the Crystal Palace on Wednesday afternoon, and received a hearty welcome from an assemblage numbering upwards of fifteen thousand. A number of distinguished persons had been invited to meet the royal party. A specially attractive programme had been arranged for the occasion. The Prince and Princess and party arrived towards the conclusion of the concert in the central transept, and were loudly cheered, while the orchestra played in succession the national anthem, the Greek national hymn, and "God bless the Prince of Wales," the chorus singing the words of the song. The royal party then witnessed from a balcony the outdoor performances of Mr. Myers's hippodrome, and these were followed by an indoor performance in the centre transept. The Prince of Wales afterwards entertained at dinner about seventy guests, including the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary of the Crystal Palace, and the fete concluded with a grand display of fireworks and illumination of the fountains and grounds. The number of persons present at the fete was 15,360.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have gone to Goodwood, and are the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Richmond during the race week.

On Saturday morning the King and Queen of the Hellenes left London by the South-Eastern Railway for Dover, *en route* for Brussels by way of Ostend. They were accompanied to Dover by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Emperor and Empress of Brazil arrived at Liverpool on Saturday from New York, and afterwards took the steamer to Ostend.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says that unless Mr. Disraeli's health should improve he is not likely to lead the House of Commons after the present session. In that case he will not, the correspondent understands, refuse a peerage; and the leadership in the Lower House will devolve upon Sir Stafford Northcote.

On Monday morning the Lord Mayor, attended by the City Marshal and the Sword and Mace Bearers, and accompanied by the Recorder, the Remembrancer, and a deputation of nearly sixty members of the Corporation of London and twelve members of the Court of Lieutenancy, proceeded to Osborne to present addresses of congratulation to Her Majesty on the safe return of the Prince of Wales from India. The civic party left Waterloo-station for Portsmouth at five minutes to nine, and on arriving there were conveyed to Osborne in the Admiralty yacht Fire Queen. The Queen received the deputation about one o'clock, and the party returned to town about seven o'clock.

It is stated that, before the prorogation of Parliament, the Prime Minister will recommend Her Majesty to raise several members of the House of Commons to seats in the Lords. A number of other members will receive the honour of baronetcy, including Mr. Cecil Raikes, the Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means.

It is stated that the Duke of Marlborough is to succeed the Duke of Abercorn as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

Mr. William Quartermaine East has been elected one of the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in the room of Mr. Alderman Nottage, who has declined to accept the office in the present year. He has appointed Dr. Morley Punshon as his chaplain.

Mr. Lowe presided at the annual distribution of prizes to the successful students at the middle-class schools in Cowper-street on Thursday. The right hon. gentleman rejoiced to see that the council did not depend on their own examination to weigh the success that had been realised by the pupils, as they had wisely submitted to the London University the work which had been done by the students. Congratulating the council on the results which had attended their work, he maintained that it was now the privilege and the duty of parents so to regulate the education of their children that their success in after life should not be marred by any neglect in their youth.

The death is announced of Sir Percy Burrell, member for New Shoreham. The deceased was sixty-four years of age. It is said that either Mr. Walter Burrell, his brother, or Mr. Robert Loder, will be the Conservative candidate. The late member was a Conservative.

It has been decided that the Social Science Congress shall be opened at Liverpool on October 10, continuing until the 17th of that month.

A deputation on Friday waited upon Mr. Cross, and urged upon the Government the necessity of passing the Vivisection Bill in its present shape. The Home Secretary assured his hearers that the matter should receive his best consideration, and he had no doubt that Parliament would deal with it with justice and impartiality.

Mr. J. Gerstenberg, a banker and a member of the London Stock Exchange, when crossing to Dover on Thursday on board the Belgian mail-packet Marie Henriette, was observed looking down into the engine-room. Suddenly he disappeared, having fallen below. When picked up he was quite dead, his neck being dislocated.

A sporting expedition to the Zambesi is being organised by a number of English gentlemen, and it is expected that a party of between forty and fifty will be made up. Where sportsmen go, pleasure-seekers of a less sanguinary character soon follow, and no doubt before long Mr. Cook or Mr. Gaze will be advertising excursion parties.

The House of Commons Select Committee on the Oyster Fisheries have agreed to report that they have come to the conclusion that the supply of oysters on the British coasts is decreasing, and, attributing this to over dredging, they recommend a general close-time, extending from May 1 to September 1. A number of other suggestions are made, which, it is thought, will tend materially to increase the supply of the fisheries.

The *Times* says that although the Admiralty have selected the plan of Dr. Rutherford, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for raising the Vanguard out of 130 other schemes submitted, there is every probability of their seeking to dispose of the ship as she lies by private sale.

Mr. Mundella, M.P., who presided at a meeting of Pawson and Company (Limited) last week, gave it as his opinion that at present 2,000,000*l.* per week less were paid in wages throughout the country than at the end of 1873. In the coal and iron trades wages had fallen fifty per cent. below the rates then current.

Sir E. Watkin, M.P., in addressing the shareholders of the South-Eastern Railway, at the half-yearly meeting on Thursday, remarked that the difference between a fine week and a wet one was about 3000*l.* to the company. Now they had got fine weather they would begin to prosper, but they must recollect what a succession of wintry weather they had had. During the last half-year there had been no less than seventy-nine wet days, and on seventy-seven of them the thermometer at four feet from the ground registered forty-five degrees Fahrenheit. Under such circumstances they could not expect full pleasure trains.

The drought in Ireland is becoming serious. The pastures have in many places been burnt up.

In Tipperary a gentleman who farms about 2,000 acres of land last week had to cut down a large field of oats to feed his cattle owing to a scarcity of grass.

A deputation waited on Friday upon the Earl of Carnarvon at the Colonial Office, to ask for the recall of Mr. J. Pope Hennessy, Governor of Barbadoes. In reply to the statements of the deputation, Lord Carnarvon said he was sorry that they should have deemed it necessary to appear before him again on this subject, especially since he had previously stated that it was impossible to condemn a governor on any *ex parte* statement. Since he last had an interview with them papers had been laid before Parliament containing Mr. Hennessy's account of the proceedings referred to, and these papers would no doubt be discussed next week, so that he could not anticipate what might then be said. The Assembly of the island had made no formal representation to the Colonial Office, and he could not but think there was a great deal of exaggeration. To all the charges Mr. Hennessy had given an emphatic contradiction. He attributed a great deal of the blame to the Assembly, and hoped the deputation would urge their friends in the colony to pursue a somewhat different course to that hitherto adopted, or the good intentions of Her Majesty's Government might be frustrated, and unpleasant consequences follow.

There was a short but severe thunderstorm in London between eight and nine o'clock on Sunday night. The lightning was very vivid, and in the northern districts the rain was very heavy and was accompanied by hail. Thunderstorms are also reported from various places in the North of England. At Doncaster, on Saturday night, the figure of Justice at the top of the Market Hall was struck by lightning, and the shattered pieces fell into the market-place, fortunately without injury to anyone.

It was announced by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House on Saturday that he had received a letter from the mayor of Portsmouth informing him that he had commenced a subscription in aid of the sufferers from the recent calamity on board the Thunderer, and appealing to him to exercise his good offices in a similar direction. The Lord Mayor said it was not his intention to form a committee for this purpose, but he should be glad to receive subscriptions. Two more of the injured men have died, making the total number of deaths forty-two.

Unprecedented success has attended the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at Birmingham, which closed on Friday, when upwards of 68,000 persons passed through the turnstiles.

Mr. Mansfield, the sitting magistrate at the Marylebone Police-court, on Saturday inflicted a fine of 5*s.* upon the head-master of St. Mary Magdalen School, Munster-square, for caning one of the school children, a boy ten years of age, across the face.

A serious accident occurred on Friday at the Clifton Hall Colliery, near Manchester. By a collision between two cages, all communication between the miners, numbering 330, who were in the pit, and the surface was absolutely destroyed. No injury was done to anyone, but the men in the colliery were kept there about forty hours before they were rescued from their perilous position. They were all brought safely up to the pit's mouth on Sunday morning.

On Alderman Owden taking his seat on the bench at the Guildhall on Saturday, Mr. Martin, the chief clerk, informed him that there was not a single night charge nor even a summons to be heard, and that according to ancient custom he was entitled to a pair of white gloves.

The volunteer meeting at Wimbledon was brought to a conclusion on Saturday afternoon, when the prizes were distributed by the Duchess of Teck. A programme of athletic sports took the place of the customary review.

Gustave Doré's new painting of "Our Lord's Entry into Jerusalem" is now on view. It is a tremendous work—30ft. by 20ft.—and contains about 180 life-size figures.

Mr. Gladstone's review of the life of Lord Macaulay, which occupies the first fifty pages of the *Quarterly*, is a brilliant tribute to the genius of the great essayist and historian, but it is not an unqualified panegyric.

The *Academy* says:—"A paragraph which has gone the round of the papers, to the effect that Miss Thompson has lately turned Roman Catholic, and has foresworn military for sacred art, is, we believe, anything but correct. Miss Thompson could not turn Roman Catholic, being such already; and she is now engaged upon a picture of the battle of Inkerman."

The Religious Tract Society have in preparation for early publication an illustrated work on America, by the Rev. Dr. Manning; "Jewish Life in the Time of Our Lord," by the Rev. Dr. Edersheim; a "Commentary on Ruth," by the Rev. Samuel Cox; a volume of "Sermons," by Canon Garbett; and "Life in the Southern Isles: a Record of Twenty-two Years' Residence," by the Rev. W. Wyatt Gill.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—A serenade for four voices, by Mr. J. S. Curwen, was selected by Dr. Macfarren for performance at the fortnightly meeting of professors and students on Thursday last. At the recent distribution of prizes a bronze medal was awarded to Mr. Arnold Kennedy, of Stepney, for pianoforte playing.

James Robert Vernam Marchant, a son of the Rev. J. Marchant, Kennington, scholar of Wadham College, Oxford, and late captain of the City of London School, has just succeeded in obtaining a first-class in the final examination for honours at the University of Oxford.

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Drawing and Dining-rooms, Bathroom, Conservatory, and numerous Bedrooms. Mr. BURR'S PRIVATE OMNIBUS leaves his door several times daily (Sundays excepted) to convey visitors to various parts of London free of charge.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL, HASTINGS.

At the last Cambridge Local Examination a candidate from this school was placed fourth among the seniors in French, one was placed first among the juniors in Zoology, 24th in Religious Knowledge, 43rd in English, and another was 8th in Zoology and 39th in English.

Midsummer Examination of the Royal College of Preceptors. Twelve Prizes given by the Council. Six are this summer taken by Pupils of this School, viz.:—

1st, General Proficiency
1st Mathematics
1st Natural Science
2nd General Proficiency.
2nd Natural Science.
2nd Classics.

Next Term will begin on September 21.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1876.

SUMMARY.

AMID the crowd of loosely-worded and contradictory telegrams that flow in from Constantinople and Belgrade, it is more manifest than ever that the Servians are losing ground, beaten back by superior numbers, though fighting gallantly. Their two principal army corps, under Leschjanin and Tchernayeff, numbering together between 70,000 and 80,000 men, received a great check, with heavy losses, in the battles of the 18th, 19th, and 20th of July on the Timok line. The tide of battle has been rolled back to the frontier, and the Servians have called out their third and last reserves to resist the occupation of their territory by the successful Turks; whose most able general, Mehemet Ali Pasha, a naturalised Prussian, has quite outmanœuvred General Tchernayeff. It will be seen from an extract given elsewhere that at Constantinople the conflict is coming to be looked upon as a religious war, and that Moslem fanaticism is reaching a dangerous pitch. The Montenegrins have not proved very serviceable allies to the Servians. They have overrun Herzegovina, but have not been able to take Mostar, and, according to a late telegram, Mukhtar Pasha has gained a victory over Prince Nikita near that capital. It is not, therefore, surprising to find a statement from Berlin that negociations for the arrangement of an armistice are going on between the Great Powers.

This intervention will probably be precipitated by the abundant details which are becoming familiar to Europe, as to the shocking atrocities perpetrated in Bulgaria, and which Mr. Disraeli's official palliations cannot explain away. It was, no doubt, the strong feeling produced by these barbarities that induced the Emperor Alexander, on receiving the new Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburg on Saturday, to address him in language which is said to have profoundly affected His Excellency. The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Constantinople, who was the first to reveal the nature of these barbarities, says that his information has been more than confirmed in various directions. He gives the names of thirty-two villages in one district, and of nine villages in another, that have been pillaged and burnt; the poor peasants being massacred, or driven off to the forests, by the Bashi-Bazouks, the horde of savages who were deliberately let loose upon them by the Porte. Nor have these outrages yet ceased. The *Times* correspondent at Parakin, as late as Sunday, saw a number of refugees from three Servian villages, where the Circassian troops commenced a general massacre of all the inhabitants, except young maidens, whom they carried off to sell into slavery. Surely it is a revolting thing that England should, by keeping an imposing fleet in Besika Bay, abet with her moral influence the Turkish rulers, who are clearly responsible for these brutalities.

The close of the Parliamentary session seems to be as distant as ever. On Thursday the Prime Minister announced the first "massacre of the innocents." It was so small—including only the Valuation Bill, the Highways Bill, the Scotch Poor-Law Bill, the Scotch Agricultural Holdings Bill, and the Patent Law Amendment Bill—that hon. members laughed when he stopped. Of course this is only an instalment. Since Thursday last public business has made very slow advance, owing to the sudden surrender of the Government to those reactionary followers whom they had heretofore resisted. Somehow or other, Liberals swallowed, though with a wry face, the day industrial school scheme of Lord Sandon, and even the substitute for the old 13th clause, which will enable poor denominational schools to be carried on without local subscriptions; but when it came to the ready acceptance by his lordship of Mr. Pell's new clause enabling school boards which have no schools of their own to dissolve, the opposition developed into large proportions at this palpable infraction of the Act of 1870. The excitement of Friday became white heat on Monday, and it is curious to observe how one,

and then another, moderate Liberal has discovered the danger of schools supported mainly by public money being consigned to denominational management. Mr. Richard is indeed avenged—for the spirit of the amendment he moved about a fortnight ago breathes in many of the speeches from the front Opposition bench. We have discussed the whole question below, but may here state that Ministers remained staunch to Mr. Pell, and in the small hours of yesterday morning his clause was carried by a majority of 81 (221 to 140). But the clause is not yet disposed of, though the whole sitting yesterday was spent over it.

The result of these protracted debates must be another and a larger "massacre," unless the session is to be greatly prolonged. Probably the two University Bills will have to be sacrificed, and the Prisons Bill postponed to next session, if vigorously contested. Mr. Disraeli and his colleagues are evidently of opinion that it is more important to give a new lease of life to denominational schools at the cost of the public—and a heavy cost it will be—than to reform our seats of learning, or promote uniformity of prison discipline. The country will, however, form its own opinion as to the declared reactionary tendencies of the present Tory Cabinet.

Yesterday the Archbishop of Canterbury and six other bishops met several Nonconformists, at Lambeth Palace, to confer on the alleged progress of irreligious thought in the present day. The tone of the meeting is described as hopeful, and the Primate expressed his sense of the usefulness of the meeting, and of the importance of Churchmen and Dissenters having an opportunity of better understanding each other's views.

The *Daily Telegraph*, after a silence lasting from June, 1875, has received intelligence from Mr. Stanley, the African traveller; and expects to publish his despatches on Monday week. He is described as having had some remarkable adventures.

The French Senate have thrown out the University Bill of the Government by a majority of four, after an animated debate, in which Mgr. Dupanloup, the Duc de Broglie, and M. Laboulaye (a Liberal) opposed the measure, which was supported by M. Jules Simon, M. Waddington, and M. Dufaure. This defeat of the Ministry at first excited some sensation. But on second thoughts they did not resign, and the Minister of Public Instruction is to reintroduce the bill next session. This decision of the Government was to a great extent influenced by a vote of the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday, when the bellicose M. de Cassagnac declared that they, and especially the Minister of the Interior, had abused the confidence of Marshal MacMahon. Thereupon a member opportunily proposed a vote of confidence in M. de Marcère, and requesting the Cabinet in appointing public functionaries "not to forget the duties imposed on it by the decree overthrowing the Empire." This was carried by 371 votes; the Bonapartists declining to vote. The recess will soon come, and before another session it may appear how the antagonistic Chambers are to be reconciled.

THE BLUE BOOK ON THE AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

THE diplomatic papers relating to the affairs of Turkey have been published. The volume consists of 376 pages, and contains 544 letters. It brings to the surface very little information that was not already known to the public through the correspondence of the Press. But that information it stamps with authenticity. We find nothing in this collection of despatches which materially alters the case as presented by the Foreign Secretary to the deputation headed by Mr. Bright. The hints then given by Lord Derby of the policy pursued by the British Cabinet are, of course, pretty widely expanded and illustrated by details. But the substance of them appears to have been most faithfully sketched on that occasion. There does not seem to us to have been any justification of the mysterious airs assumed by Mr. Disraeli. The country need not have been kept so long in uneasiness. As to the general drift of the policy adopted by Her Majesty's Government, no doubt, when it comes to be discussed in both Houses of Parliament it will be found open, on more than one side, to unfavourable criticism. But we do not anticipate, on the whole, a conclusion which will shake the confidence either of Parliament or of the country in the prudence, sagacity, and patriotism of the noble Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Blue Book exhibits to us a clear picture both of the past progress and present position of the case between Turkey and her vassal and insurgent provinces from the beginning of the present year. Affairs have proceeded very much as those on the spot had pretty confidently anticipated. As early as February last, it was expected that Servia would go to war. The preparations which she made for that purpose were extensive; the motives known to influence her were powerful; she gave proofs at once of sympathy with the insurgents, and of her ambition to enlarge her own borders. Turkey fully expected her attack. Great efforts were made by all the Powers to restrain her, but her people had clearly made up their minds, and Prince Milan, however reluctantly, felt himself compelled to place himself at their head, or to lose his crown and, not improbably, his life. We need scarcely go back to antecedent circumstances. The Servians may have been instigated by Russian emissaries and agitators who, however, represented far rather the aims of the Sclavonic population than the designs of the Russian Government. At any rate, both Servia and Montenegro determined for themselves the warlike course which they have taken, and no persuasions, no remonstrances on the part of their more powerful friends availed to move them from their purpose.

The state of things which they have brought about is aptly described by the *Times* of yesterday. "According to a homely but expressive figure Europe has made a ring, and leaves the Turk to fight it out with the Servian and the Montenegrin, and any one else from the neighbourhood who may choose to join. . . Each antagonist is completely free to act; each knows that he has powerful well-wishers, but that the issue will substantially depend on his prowess. Each has a well-founded conviction that he will not be suffered to perish; for Constantinople and Roumania are secure for the Turk, while the reconquest of Servia and Montenegro by the Ottoman arms is an extremity which Europe would interfere to prevent."

We have to bear in mind that the correspondence given in the Blue Book is carried down only to the outbreak of the Turco-Servian war. All the Powers were agreed that the new Sultan should be allowed time to consider his policy, and to deal with the insurgents by direct negotiations. Lord Derby, in discussing the subject with Count Schouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador, was asked the question, what was the drift and object of British policy. "Until it was known to this Government," remarked the Count, "united action was impossible, however much other Powers might desire it." Lord Derby doubted the possibility of effective interposition unless the Powers were prepared (which Her Majesty's Government were not) to use compulsion, as against one or other party in the quarrel. He thought the struggle should be allowed to go on until success should have declared itself more or less decisively on one side or the other. Supposing the insurgents to be victorious, they would probably acquire for themselves a position similar to that of Servia or Roumania—in other words, administrative autonomy. Supposing, on the other hand, the Sultan should succeed in even partially re-establishing his authority, the demands of the insurgents would be moderated, their confidence would have received a check, and they would probably acquiesce in some such arrangement as that made with the Cretans after the war of 1866-67. In either event the time would not be distant when the Powers might usefully and successfully mediate. Prince Gortchakoff, on the part of Russia, deems it desirable to maintain the political *status quo* by a genuine improvement in the lot of the Christian populations, if for no other reason, as an indispensable condition of the existence of the Ottoman Empire. The Emperor Alexander is known to desire the maintenance of peace, nor has he been entirely unsuccessful in the efforts which he has made to carry out his purpose. He disclaims all desire or purpose to interfere with the political or territorial integrity of the Turkish Empire. But he sees no hope for the lasting pacification of that Empire otherwise than by placing its Christian subjects in the revolted provinces under such administrative provisions as may insure for them a fair measure of self-government; and this object, he thinks, might, would, and ought, to be exacted from the Porte, without any probable danger of war, by the concurrent pressure of the guaranteeing Powers.

A few consular despatches, also one or two from Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, deal with the question of the reported atrocities in Bulgaria. In proportion as the matter is inquired into the substantial accuracy of the report sent home by the correspondent of the *Daily News* has been confirmed, and it becomes a matter of surprise that the diplomatic and consular agents of the British Government in Turkey did not more spontaneously and fully report the matter to the Foreign Office.

THE BLOCK IN COMMITTEE.

THE Education Bill proceeded with fairly reasonable speed until Thursday night, when Mr. Pell's amendment afforded a fresh illustration of the proverb, that there are circumstances under which even a worm will turn. The firmness and patience with which the Liberal leaders resisted the acceptance of that amendment demand our gratitude. But it is impossible to avoid the reflection that, if the same spirit had been shown in regard to far worse provisions already embodied in the bill, the evils of the measure might have been lessened, instead of being aggravated, as they are likely to be now. The insertion of a provision for certifying day industrial schools, specious as the proposal seems, has at least as many opponents as advocates, amongst philanthropists who have special experience of the neglected classes. It is noteworthy that the idea was for a long time before the School Board for London, and, after the most careful examination, was rejected, as likely to do more harm than good. The objections to it are obvious. It insidiously increases the facilities already possessed by lazy, drunken parents for throwing the maintenance of their children upon the public; by permitting the children to lodge at home, it does away with the disagreeable conditions which have imposed some limit upon the practice; and, at the same time, it dispenses with any sufficient guarantee that the moral training will be effectual. The necessity for such an innovation is not in the least degree proved by Miss Carpenter's experience, which amounts pretty much to this, that all poor children will be glad to go to a school where they can get a good dinner. The case for such schools is not established, unless it can be shown that school boards have not sufficient means in their hands already for reaching the neglected classes, by a judicious use of compulsion, and the existing industrial schools. This has never been proved. Indeed the police statistics of London, which show a very considerable diminution of juvenile crime, go far to establish the contrary. Again, while all praise and sympathy are due to the benevolent promoters of "ragged-schools," it must be conceded that their experience so far suggests a question whether schools avowedly designed to segregate a specially low class of children from others do not tend to keep them in that class, instead of elevating them above it.

The next important amendment introduced by Lord Sandon was not of a doubtful, but of a decidedly evil, tendency. The increase of the possible grant to denominational schools, and the removal of the condition that this grant should be met by a reasonable amount of voluntary contributions, establishes openly the dangerous principle that sectarian managers may use for their own purposes the money of taxpayers and parents, without the irksome necessity of a supplementary subscription list. The cost of conducting an elementary school is now reckoned at thirty-five shilling per head. Of this, according to the amendment in question, one-half may be obtained from the examination grant, without any questions asked as to the amount of expenditure, or as to the other sources of income. If, therefore, a fee of sixpence a week be charged, a clear profit will be left on the management of the school. This is a shameless surrender of the only pretext on which denominational schools can, with any honesty, be called "voluntary" at all. And it is an unconstitutional abandonment of the principle that public funds should be administered under public management. Of this we are very sure, that when a healthier public opinion revives, denominational managers will find to their cost that they have deprived themselves of the last vestige of a plea for the maintenance of their anomalous privileges. It is all very well to say that we get the secular work done, for which public money is paid, and that we ought, therefore, to be satisfied. But our objection is that we get a great deal more done, which we strongly dislike, against which we emphatically protest, and which never could be done without the contribution of our money. It comes, in fact, to this, that the enemies of all progress and Liberalism are enabled, by contributions from the taxes, without the slightest demand upon their private purse, to keep a monopoly of the most important national work over more than half the country.

As to Mr. Pell's amendment, permitting the dissolution of certain school boards, Dr. Playfair hit the right nail on the head when he observed, that up to this time the Opposition side of the House had been divided into two parties on the education question, but that the Government had committed the political mistake of uniting these two parties into one. Dr. Playfair was certainly right. There *are* two parties in the Opposition; and now the public has an opportunity of judging which of these

two parties has the firmest grasp of definite principles. We do not in the least wish to undervalue the importance of the point on which Mr. Forster has made so valiant a stand; but this we do say, that its importance is not nearly so manifest as that of those rights of conscience which have been surrendered with comparative indifference. Mr. Forster argued that "the Dissenters had in many districts almost obtained a vested right in the school boards, and Parliament had no right to divest them of that privilege." We venture to think that Dissenters would be very ill-advised were they to make any such claim. What they require is, that neither Conformity nor Nonconformity should have any pretence to vested rights, either in school boards or the national schools. They want a system under which the differences between them and their ecclesiastical rivals should have no place, and no significance at all. They have as little desire to domineer over Conformists, as they have that Conformists should domineer over them. What they claim is a vested right in their own consciences; and freedom to avail themselves of national elementary instruction, without the petty and annoying disabilities which it is now in the power of every priestling in the rural districts to inflict. Mr. Forster also said that, "if the Government would transfer the old organising power to the new authority, they would have very little more trouble about this clause." Perhaps not, from those Liberals to whom the very name of religious equality is a troublesome bugbear, or a hollow sham. But surely Mr. Forster ought to know Nonconformists better, than to suppose that they could ever be satisfied by the substitutions of the guardians and the clergy for school boards. The new authority is, we presume, the "local authority," and the local authority is, in rural districts, to all intents and purposes, the parish clergyman. Is it for one moment to be supposed that we should be content to leave it to the local clergy to say how much school accommodation is required, and what amount of public money should be devoted to supplying it? This can scarcely have been Mr. Forster's meaning. But what else it was we are wholly at a loss to divine. Let us not be misunderstood. We are exceedingly grateful to both sections of the Opposition for the stand they have made against this infatuated amendment. But we insist that it is only the lack of any definite principle on which the Opposition unanimously agree, that has encouraged the Government to accept it. It is simply an index of the presumptuous confidence engendered in the Ministry by the fatal political apathy of the country at large. In towns like Stockport where the board has no schools of its own, it would immediately initiate a bitter agitation to get more power into clerical hands. In towns where the board has only taken over denominational schools, but has built none for itself, it would probably put into operation, for the first time, the clause of Mr. Forster's own Act which provides for the resumption of their property by denominational managers. The present bill will offer many temptations to such a course, by securing immunity for denominational pockets. But the stolid majority at present in power can do anything. There is only this comfort, that the longer the stone obstructing the stream of progress remains, the vaster will be the flood that sweeps it away.

UNIVERSITY HALL, LONDON.—The Gilchrist Scholarship of 50*l.* per annum, tenable for three years at this institution, has been awarded to Mr. Arthur Henry Mason, of Amersham Hall School. This scholarship has now been carried off nine times in succession by pupils of this school.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY ON INDIA.—Presiding on Friday at the distribution of prizes at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's-hill, the Marquis of Salisbury said, in the course of his speech:—"You know the condition in which our Indian finances are at the present moment. Probably the rumours of the silver panic have reached even these secluded halls. I used the words 'silver panic' advisedly, because, in my opinion, matters are made out to be very much darker than they really are, and prophecies of evil are indulged in for which there is no foundation in ascertained facts. But, making allowance for that, and admitting, as I do, that the larger part of our present trouble is due to purely transient and temporary causes, there is no doubt that, partly by our mode of garrisoning India, partly by our mode of raising money for its requirements, we have placed ourselves in this unpleasant position—that we have to bring home the very large sum of 15,000,000*l.* annually for the service of the Indian Government at home. There can be no doubt that although the burden may not be so great as some think, yet the burden in future years and the call for economy will be greater than it has perhaps been in the past. . . . It cannot be too earnestly impressed upon all who take part in the Government of India that economy there is not a matter of discretion, but of absolute necessity."

Literature.

*A NEW CHURCH DEFENDER.**

We feel ourselves greatly indebted to Mr. Harwood for the volume in which he has undertaken to expose the fallacy of the advocates of disestablishment. That a "young business man in his leisure" should undertake the championship of the Anglican Church, and employ so much time in constructing new defences is to us a gratifying circumstance as indicative of the extent to which the subject is engaging the attention of those who may be regarded as least disposed to dwell upon it. *Qui s'excuse s'accuse* is a maxim of wide application, and this elaborate argument is one among many proofs of the felt insecurity of the institution whose position it is intended to strengthen. Our satisfaction with the work is greatly increased by the new evidence it furnishes of the weakness of the cause which Mr. Harwood has taken up. Of his own competence and ability as an advocate we shall speak afterwards; but altogether apart from any question of that kind, this volume shows the difficulty which everyone will find who enters the lists on behalf of the Establishment. So long as he confines himself to an exposure of the evils of Dissent and of the serious loss which the nation would sustain if she were deprived of the great blessings derived from a public religious institution, his task is comparatively easy, and he may succeed, at all events, in winning the unanimous approval of his own friends. He may even contrive by the exercise of some ingenuity, in giving specious answers to some of the objections urged against the Anglican Church—answers plausible enough to satisfy those who start with a full conviction of their weakness; but when he addresses himself to the positive part of his work, to the construction of a theory which will be accepted on his own side, and is capable of being effectually defended against the assailants, his task is much more difficult and success more problematical. But failure here is fatal to his case altogether. Everything else is merely reply to criticism, or a *tu quoque* retort upon opponents, and contributes nothing to the actual proof. It may be that some of the objections raised to the Establishment are unsound, or that those who start them are supporters of systems open to still graver exceptions, and yet the Establishment may be undeserving of support. The first essential to an intelligent discussion of the subject is a general agreement as to the point to be discussed. Mr. Harwood tell us that the "friends of the Church need have no hesitation in boldly taking up" the challenge of their foes. "The onus of bringing on the fight does not rest with them; they were quite contented to stay behind the ramparts of sentiment as they may be called, but since they are summoned out into the open plain of reason they are nothing loath to come, indeed they are very glad to have the opportunity of showing that the Church is quite able to beat her enemies with their own ideas." In the ardour of his zeal Mr. Harwood scorns the weakness of those who would admit that if there was not an Establishment in existence "no one would think of creating such an institution in these days" or can now "offer any satisfactory theoretical defence for for it." The man who takes a position like this needs to have powerful arguments at the back of his bold words, and ought especially to have a fundamental principle by which his own friends will be prepared to stand.

Mr. Harwood candidly recognises the necessity for a definition of what a National Church is. He "cannot help observing that the public mind is just now in a very weak and flabby condition," and he diverges from the straight line of his argument to give us in a sentence, pitched in that high tone of moral and intellectual superiority characteristic of writers of his class, his view of the causes which have produced it. The important point, however, is that he undertakes to correct the faults which he so vividly describes, and of which the Liberation Society appears to be specially guilty. This is his account of its mode of action:—

> The present agitation, to use a common though often misleading word [observe the extreme caution which our author shows in the employment of the most ordinary expressions], against the existence of the National Church is strongly marked by both these characteristics [indifference to great principles and dependence on popular caprice], for its chief hopes depend upon excitements and its chief arguments depend upon vagueness. An organisation is now being developed in order to get up the steam of popular frenzy, so that disestablishment may become a popular "cry." Numberless meteors of flashing phases are darting about the heavens, but few of them will run in the orbits of reason and truth. We hear much about the injustice and mischief of the connection between the Church and the State, but there is no one to tell us what that connection really is. Definition and declamation are rarely companions.

This sounds like the talk of a very young man, but it is as strange, however, that the author of such a paragraph should end it with a sneer against declamation, as that he should take credit to himself as "not incapable of understanding the arguments or sympathising with the feelings of the opponents" of the Establishment. His way of showing his appreciation of their case is to tell them that they indulge in vague arguments, and, in fact, have never even taken the trouble to explain what is the evil they are attacking. Now, if we regarded this as anything more than a piece of that declamation which Mr. Harwood condemns even while he is himself employing it, we should be disposed to apply very strong language in relation to it. The definitions which Nonconformists have given of the Establishment may not be to his own mind, but it is worse than idle to suggest that they are not to be found. Waiving this point, however, we turn, with all the more interest, because of this condemnation of vagueness and confession of need of vigorous definition, to learn what our author himself intends by the Establishment. He is careful to repudiate the old conception of the Church and State as "two distinct institutions," which "is so invitingly simple that we cannot help regretting being obliged to confess that it is quite untrue." It is, we must say, in passing, among Churchmen rather than Nonconformists, that the mistake exists, and we are quite content that they should have "line upon line" in correction of an error into which they are so prone to fall. The following is very sound doctrine which can hardly be too strongly insisted upon:—

> Those who speak of the Church as a distinct body would be troubled to describe what that body is. That it is not the clergy is shown by the fact that even if all of them simultaneously refused to submit to the State's conditions, as we have seen that numbers of them have sometimes done, the State, if it so decided, would only have to put fresh ones in their places, and the Church of England would continue, even though the whole *personnel* of its officers had been changed. The separation of Church and State can only be brought about by the State determining to give up having anything to do with religion.

The Church, on this view, is simply a department of the State for religious purposes. Its continuity depends not on the maintenance of any creeds or doctrines, or the existence of a particular Government, but solely on the will of the State. It is the same Church to-day as it was in ante-Reformation times, not because it enjoys the apostolical succession and valid sacraments, but because it is, as it has been from the beginning, an organisation controlled, as it was created, by the State. Everything is made to depend on the question of organisation "which determines the character of a church."

> Every organisation deserving the name of a Church must have a supreme authority lodged somewhere, whether it be in the State or in a single person, or in the separate congregation, or in some assembly, either clerical or mixed, and the character of that organisation depends upon where this authority is lodged; all other arrangements are incidentals which can be altered in any way whilst the Church remains the same. This supreme authority for the Church of England has always been lodged in the State, and it is the Church it is merely on account of that fact. Convocation may be destroyed, as it has frequently been suspended; bishops may be abolished, and the whole machinery of Church discipline may be changed, but so long as the organisation remains under State control it will continue to be the Church of England, and it will cease to be that Church as soon as it is removed from that control, in fact the organisation itself will cease to exist.

Mr. Harwood still further illustrates his view by pointing out the difference between the relations of the Telegraph Department and the War Office to the State. The former had once an independent existence, and might conceivably resume it, whereas the other is an integral part of the State, which could hardly exist without it, while a "War Department independent of the State is only another name for rebellion." The Church, of course, is in the position of the War Office, it is, in fact, the religious department, and therefore disestablishment means the "abandonment by the State of a duty which has hitherto been always an essential part of its functions, and it means also the annihilation of the Church."

We congratulate the friends of the Establishment, especially those among them who believe in the spiritual functions of a Church, upon their new defender. For ourselves, we feel we may safely leave the examination of his reasonings until his own allies have accepted his theory. His statements are, in our judgment, perfectly true, but they will startle and shock Churchmen much more than they disturb us. We are grateful to him for tearing aside those masks which serve to hide the real facts from so many. If he can only succeed in convincing

* *Disestablishment: or a Defence of the Principle of a National Church.* By GEORGE HARWOOD, M.A. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

Churchmen that his is a true representation the work of disestablishment will soon be accomplished. Unfortunately, it is they, rather than Dissenters, who shrink from definition, and will be reluctant to adopt it even when it is put plainly before them. The dream of the most earnest of them is that theirs is the Catholic Church whose doctrine and polity the State has established. Rather than confess that it is a department of the State they would accept even the "liberation" which Nonconformists have to offer. We hope to return to a consideration of some of the special points of Mr. Harwood's book. For the present we can only give a necessary warning against confidence in a writer who can tell us that Roman Catholic emancipation was granted and the Test and Corporation Acts repealed in the reign of William IV. This is one of the most egregious errors he has committed, but it is far from being a solitary one.

"THE BERTRAM FAMILY."*

Mrs. Charles is always pleasant to read. She takes care to inform herself well in respect to certain aspects of the period with which she may deal; and she informs all she touches with a certain select poetic character. But she over-refines it all; and indeed, we may almost assert, winnows away that which is most especially distinguishing by her excessive over-thoughtedness. Her characters really repeat each other—there is an old lady in her story, which immediately preceded this one, who actually pours out whole paragraphs precisely the same as another belonging to a former book, and professedly to a former century; while a certain remarkable and most unreal scene of two children philosophising in a cabbage-garden, is repeated here, though without the somewhat grotesque accessories. Probably the intricate network of family connection and family descent, which she has established in her stories, would be urged in justification of this; as in the most striking ways family likeness will leap out after generations of variation. "The Bertram Family" is a continuation of "Winifred Bertram," and thus one of the characters indicates the extent and intricacy of relationship:—

> The first note-books in our family of which we know anything were in the German branch—or rather root of it, called Schönberg-Cotta. It is to this side of the house my father says I belong. He says I am altogether Teutonic, not in the least Latin, whatever he may mean by that; not certainly that I am profound, or critical, or "develope anything out of the depths of my own consciousness"; I suppose he means in the Hausfrau aspect.
>
> Then came the Thirty Years' War, and one of our ancestresses married a Mr. Drayton, of Netherby, whose daughter Olive and son Roger took to writing histories of what they did and saw, and, in doing that, of what they themselves *were*, which, I suppose, we can none of us help doing, whether we wish it or not, or whether the histories are written for us or by us.
>
> Then there was Mrs. Kitty Trevelyan, whose grandfather married one of his cousins the New England Draytons, and one of whose daughters was the first wife of Mr. Danescombe, of Abbot's Weir, whose son Piers' eldest daughter, Claire Monica Danescombe, married our father's father, and thus became the step-sister-in-law of our great-aunt Katherine Wyse.
>
> Eustace says I am the only one in the family who has a genius for pedigree, but that unfortunately this is unaccompanied by a genius for making it clear to anyone else.
>
> Family likenesses reappear, my father says, in all these family chronicles. Although, if what some one says is true, that everybody now is descended from everybody in Edward IV.'s reign, the whole question of family likenesses seems exceedingly extensive and complicated—or, in fact, nowhere.

And so, with true application, she has brought the record down almost to our own day, and we can in some respects judge the more soberly as to verisimilitude. But the scrutiny does not reveal Mrs. Charles as gaining in natural touch or in direct insight, but only becoming more and more artificial and intellectual. The truth is she is but poorly gifted with the dramatic faculty. Her books, we think, might have been more useful, more fitted to instruct, had she simply written plain honest sketches of the times she has been drawn to with a central biographic character. She has no hold either on their realer aspects, nor on their more subtle metaphysical tendencies much as she deals in metaphysical suggestion. She draws in all the aid she can from large reading, but so conspicuously does she fail to present us with typical characters, that the process is all too transparent; and the diffused machinery of Diaries and Moan-books, on which the present volume is founded, shows that even she has to some extent lost faith in her methods, and has become forced, artificial, overdone. That would be a very strong and *curious* mind, indeed, that could sit down and go through this story, without some kind of intermittent relief in real life, or in some other kind of literature. Perhaps Mrs. Charles would tell us that she does not aim at securing any such result as we have hinted at—a result at which every writer of fiction, however, should implicitly aim. In yielding this, she does but grant the whole force of our criticism. Life in any period, when seized faithfully, should be felt to have rudimentary or primitive passions in common with all others; while it may vary from them widely in modes of thought, in manners, intellectual refinements and exercises. But the artificiality of Mrs. Charles's view is seen in this, that the result in her case exactly reverses this. All the periods with which she deals are characterised by remarkable sameness in the problems that present themselves, or, at all events, in the mode in which they are approached; while, as for *love*, that most common and commanding element of interest, it would seem as though it existed only through small details and circumstances, which great creators have ever deemed as of little or no account. Mrs. Charles is too much afraid of the touch of the common earth. She walks in an upper region of fine air. She affects us sometimes with a secondary admiration, but she never really *moves* us. We smile sometimes as we read, but we never once laugh. Laughter, we suppose, she would deem coarse, as she apparently deems love a make-believe. We thus see that, though she may be intellectually earnest, she is not altogether artistically sincere. Thought, refinement, pretext of the most artificial kind—we mean that which pertains to class manners—stand to her too largely in the stead of pity, pathos, laughter, love. All this is specially seen in her peculiar way of mixing up and entangling her dim reflections of the common passions with mystical and metaphysical speculations. Let it not be understood that we have not found much to admire in the volume. It is full of fine thought—separate passages there are that are richly suggestive, that quietly shine like pearls; but we would seriously urge on Mrs. Charles to relinquish the ultra-artificial construction she has allowed herself too much to favour, and to endeavour after reality, truth to nature, common traits, and common features. By far the best part of the book is that which deals with the work in Maurice Bertram's parish in the East-end of London during the prevalence of Asiatic cholera. Here and there, too, we have distinct and practical suggestions with regard to some of the everyday difficulties of our modern life; and now and then we have bits of axiomatic utterance, not, however, always in keeping with the characters into whose mouths they are put. This is an instance:—

> "It takes some time," said Maurice, "to learn how really we each and all of us have to live our own life, bear our own burden, fight our own battle. It seems so natural, at first, that the ground we have gained should be gained for our children also; that it is difficult not to be a little indignant with them for feeling after the truths we seem to have found once for all, not to imagine they are *pretending* their conflicts, when to us the difficulties they are perplexed with have ceased to be difficulties. It seems as unreasonable as if they should set themselves against the Copernican system, or the undulatory theory of sound and light. It takes long to learn practically that spiritual truth has really different aspects, without sin, simply from our different characters and necessities, and different points of view; and that even the differences which spring from faults of character and that ought *not* to be, have to be corrected slowly like the character itself. We talk philosophically about the pendulum vibrating, or truth advancing in a spiral. But when the pendulum begins to swing back from our own point of the vibration, it is difficult not to feel as if the sun were standing still, or the whole machinery being reversed."
>
> "The vibrations seem particularly extreme, too, in these days," said Grace.
>
> "It seems sometimes," he replied, "as if we were standing on the old Cornish coast, on the shores of the Atlantic, not of any quiet little inland sea; each long sweep of the receding wave might easily be mistaken for an ebb. But though the wave sweeps back for a century, Grace, never let us believe in an ebb of the tide of life and light! It is always 'conquering and to conquer.'"
>
> They spoke about the mediævalisms of Austin, to whom the past was as a divine progenitor to be adored and the liberalisms of Eustace, who was disposed to patronise the past as a baby in swaddling-clothes.
>
> "And both," said Maurice, "so right and so wrong; the past being, in truth, to us both as a childhood from which we are to grow into manhood, and as a father whom, unless we reverence, and learn what he has to teach, we shall never grow into manhood."
>
> "But, Maurice, the children have all that. They do want to *learn*. They do like to *look up*: Austin to the past, Eustace to the heroes in the present. They are above the vulgar ignorance of the *nil admirari*, and they delight to work. They have gained the habit of steady thorough work, which poor Harry never gained, and which you think so few gain after youth."

Mrs. Charles is still amenable to criticism about her quotations, of which she has already heard a good deal. The shade of Arthur Hugh Clough will, we fear, hardly be appeased for a certain unwarrantable mutilation of beautiful hexameters, by the sticking in of a few asterisks at *the wrong place!*

* "*The Bertram Family.*" By the Author of the "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family." (Daldy, Isbister and Co.)

*RECENT POETRY.**

1. In spite of some inequality, and occasional metrical irregularities, "Sappho" shows distinct dramatic power. The subject is well conceived; and the authoress has the gift of revealing the less striking traits of the chief personages by means of hint, reference, and contact of the speakers. So well is this managed generally, but particularly in the third scene of the second act, that we are not surprised that it has been said this is one of the few dramas of the class that might, with a prospect of success, be put on the stage. It has not only the profound interests of passion, but it has variety and reach and distinct grasp of contrasted individualities, and in addition to this the action is well regulated and skilfully concentrated. Besides all this there are distinct touches of insight in several of the scenes. The revulsion of feeling in Sappho on discovering the perfidy of the little slave Cleone, is very well rendered, and not less the utterance of her defeated passion and ambition in the last scene of all. The materials on which to found such a play were not great; but the authoress has dealt with them with equal power and freedom, and has imparted to them a fire, a passion, and here and there a pathos, which we but seldom meet with in poetry that has not reached a wide popularity. This may be taken as a fair specimen of the verse—though specimens can give but a poor idea of a dramatic poem:—

> Alcæus, good Alcæus; bear with me;
> Be patient with my foibles and my fancies:
> I am a wayward child—ill understood
> Of men, and oft a stranger to myself;
> But, wherewithal, endowed with love of justice
> And duty, Jove alone can comprehend.
> I would not wrong thee for the wealth of Crœsus,
> Nor trifle with thy great heart's noble passion;
> But, urge me not to don the nuptial chain;
> It was so heavy in my younger days;
> So galling wore into my soul's fine quick,
> I fear I could not wear it with meet grace
> E'e friendly time have medicined its wounds;
> Meantime, let me lean on thy generous love,
> And look up to thee as my demigod.
> I am so lonely in this world of woe;
> So many faithless reeds have broke beneath me,
> That I could worship one firm, faultless staff.

(2) "Kilwuddie and Other Poems" belongs to a very different order. They are in the Lowland Scotch, and show now and then a glimmer of humour, pawky insight, and real pathos! They do not show sustained strength; they have neither the dash of Ferguson nor the fanciful fineness of Hogg, but they tell of genuine observation and a true though humble genius. The best, we think, are the "Clock and the Bellows" for quiet humour, and "Ailie and the Puir Auld Man" for quiet pathos.

(3) "Sybil of Cornwall, and the Heart's Great Rulers," comes to us in a second edition, most neatly got up. Of the poems we spoke at length on the appearance of the first edition, and need not do more now than say that they exhibit Mr. Michell's characteristics, and may in this shape make new friends.

(4) "Love's Trilogy" is not a bit more comprehensible than either of Mr. Sinclair's two former books. He has chosen to endeavour to give a dramatic use to the sonnet form—an experiment which, though he has determinedly carried it through, can only be declared a conspicuous failure. To eke out his rhymes he is compelled to use the most shocking slang, not to speak of colloquialisms such as "pal," "flat," and so on; and he does not seem to feel that the redundant syllable is an error in this form. The second part strikes us as the best, but it is so involved, *outré*, perplexing, that definite opinions on it are not easy to form. One thing is clear—Mr. Sinclair may be a true poet, but he must reduce his vocabulary, put restraint on his ideas, seek access to ordinary modes of feeling, and write more simply before he can hope to gain an audience.

5. A very different word criticism would tender to Mr. Guy Roslyn. His "Village Verses" are most simple in theme, and now and then we have a musical line or stanza; but constantly he passes into the thinnest thread-

1. *Sappho: A Tragedy in Five Acts.* By STELLA, author of "Records of the Heart," &c., &c. Second Edition. (Trubner and Co.)
2. *Kelwuddi, and other Poems.* By JAMES NICHOLSON, author of "Willie Waugh," &c., &c. Third Edition. (Glasgow: James McGeachey.)
3. *Sybil of Cornwall, and the Heart's Great Rulers.* By NICHOLAS MICHELL, author of "Ruins of Many Lands," &c. (Tegg and Co.)
4. *Love's Trilogy.* By THOMAS SINCLAIR, M.A. (Trubner and Co.)
5. *Village Verses, &c.* By GUY ROSLYN. (Moxon and Co.)
6. *Silent Music.* Poems by A. R. DE ROME WOOD. (Dalton-in-Furness: Robert Blake. Manchester: Heywood.)
7. *Verses and Verselets.* By a LOVER OF NATURE. (Trubner and Co.)
8. *Labda and other Poems.* By J. M. JOY, author of "The Song of Cadman." (George Bell and Sons.)

bare commonplace, or falls into the purest imitation. He wants to cultivate ideas, and to eschew subjects on which he has to labour, as, for instance, "Changing Pictures," some lines in which are feeble and forced. The best in the little book we think are "Zephadee"—which has a rare old ballad-like freedom—and "Wildermere," which is touched with a suggestion of irony.

6. Mr. De Rome Wood should not have published several of the pieces in his volume. "Freethought" is of this class, it wants thought, music, finish—everything; and so is that "Suppress Letter." Some of the innocent, playful pieces are the best, as, for example, "Christmas Verses for Children." But the weeding we should be inclined to recommend would reduce it certainly from book to booklet, and doubtless he would not agree with us, or take our advice, so we shall reserve details.

7. There is a good deal of thought and nice expression in "Verses and Verselets" by a lover of nature; but he should not be so metaphysical and didactic. Doubtless he would say, "That is just what I mean to be, and would not write else." "The Gracious Worker" and "Nature's Remonstrance" show what the author might do if he would but permit himself to pass into pure lyrical moods. We must give a short extract, which is full of thought, and is finished in expression:—

The task is easy which is done
That another's good be won:
If 'tis done alone for thee,
Thy reward but poor will be.
He whose gains are all his own
Can reward himself alone;
How to do it? clothe and feed
Himself beyond his utmost need,
Or give body up to vice,
Or soul give up to avarice.

Man to me is deep in debt,
But the goodness in him flows
Where he thinks he's more to get;
Me he pays not that he owes.
Gratitude I none exact,
Give and take is my great law;
Who observes this solemn pact
In my blessing finds no flaw;—
Man repays his debt to me
By love of all humanity.

Heart of joy to him I give,
Who within my law doth live.
As its fragrance to the rose,
As their whiteness to the snows,
To humanity is love;
Other grace so far above,
That without it, life is waste,
Only bitter to the taste.
All my years I count in vain,
That are not to love a gain.

8. "Labda and other poems" shows distinct feeling for colour and rhythm. Miss Joy has something of the poetic gift; but it is not her longest poems that we like best; rather the very shortest and least ambitious of them. Then she is spontaneous, natural, graceful; but the moment she touches a more ambitious subject she becomes artificial and indirect. "Moods" are very good, and express true feeling; but "Sweet Kate of Berrydean" we like best of the short pieces. We prefer, however, to extract this last of the section headed "Moods," which shows great care and finish of versification:—

Oh, rippling river, murmuring stream!
Hie thee on—away! away!
There are quiet, hidden dells
Bosom'd in thy winding way,
Where the sleeping shadow dwells,
Giving back the light of day;
Where the brooding throstle sits,
Where the pied wagtail flits,
Where the jay's wild note of love
Rings with the cooing, grey-wing'd dove
In mingled harmony; where breathes
A perfume as of incense rising
Through the vaulted, sunlit trees,
Nature perfected, though dying
Swan-like on the floating breeze,
Sheds her fragrant, fleeting breath,
Sweetest, purest at her death;
All with silent worship yielding
Life, just lent them from above,
Everything in nature breathing
Highest mastery of love.

*ARCHDEACON SINCLAIR'S CHARGES.**

Archdeacon Sinclair was a man of singular prudence, discernment, and good taste. He could also administer well, and, as Archdeacon of Middlesex for a long period, he certainly did the Church of England good service. In the matter of national education and Church extension he may be said to have marked out distinct and original lines for himself, and if he did not always secure the adhesion of those who surrounded him in high places to all the details of his schemes, they without exception looked up to him as a man of great energy and influence. But we are afraid that the printing of these charges as they stand will be found to be a grave mistake. The pressure of events has carried matters far beyond what was ever anticipated by the worthy archdeacon, who, though zealous and able to carry his view further afield than many clergymen, was yet cramped by caution, and, in spite of wide personal sympathies, was timid in action. We see this in the presiding drift of his counsels, which, in effect, it was in most instances, as in the case of that great ritual and rubrical disturbance which so distressed the good archbishop of that day, "to urge all alike to abstain from introducing changes in the services of the Church, and *to leave things as they were*." This is a kind of nostrum that cannot be regarded as of much account at this time of day, when the Archbishop of Canterbury so fully illustrates it in a matter that lies so near to the interests of the Church as that of dealing with ritual practices which have already been condemned by law.

Archdeacon Sinclair was sincerely concerned for the good of the Church; his Scotch upbringing made him anxious to secure for the laity real representation in it, and he was, like Archbishop Tait, concerned to see the Church really acting on the heathen multitudes outside her pale. In those causes, as well as in that of national education, he spent much of his strength, but with a comparatively slight result. As to his various deliverances on the subject of education, they are robbed of almost all their value through the changes effected by the Education Act, and he would doubtless have been ready to rejoice in the recent successes of the Church party in a direction which cannot ultimately be for their benefit. But what he has to say at p. 115 on the evils of over-inspection of schools deserves consideration, though it runs wholly in the teeth of the tendencies of to-day, and is hardly consistent with a good deal that he says elsewhere. It is very odd, too, to read the Archdeacon's various deliverances on church-rates, and his different plans for modifying them. That suggestion of two rates—one for the fabric, to be extracted from all, and another for ornament, to be drawn only from church-goers—was extremely characteristic, but it shows also to what straits the ingenuity of men of his type was even then reduced. Really such charges should be purged of dead-weights like this, at our late day. They may help us to a study of the characteristics of the men who penned them; but they are otherwise rather dreary reading, and must prove so in especial, we should think, to those who were on the same side in opinion.

With respect to certain efforts of Archdeacon Sinclair to secure true reports regarding the condition of the Potteries, shortly after the riots of 1842, we must say that like Lord Macaulay in another case, we should have been more trustful of his witnesses if they had not been all Church people (!). What purpose can at this date be served by publishing these one-sided documents we are utterly at a loss to conceive—unless, indeed, the editor has a desire thereby to perpetuate ill-founded prejudice. The most important witness—at all events, if taken by the extent of his statement—has no idea it would seem any more than the editor, that he is charging against the Church for its neglect of its functions when he says:—

> The number of the working classes who attend the churches is very small, owing mainly to this fact, *that Church extension was neglected until the people became confirmed and matured in Dissent.* In this parish there was but one church, of about 700 sittings and none free, for upwards of 15,000 people, until 1831.

And the writer seems to have no idea whatever that the Church's abnegation of its functions to the extent he here admits, was presumably the cause for the violence displayed towards churches. His spirit of impartiality is seen by his capacity to rise from details to abstract and necessary principles. He goes on to say:—

> The doctrine of all Dissent has a natural and necessary tendency to encourage rebellion. That doctrine is, that obedience to authority (whether civil or spiritual) is not a duty of absolute Christian obligation, but to be limited by every man's private judgment (however uninformed or unsound), and by every man's conscience (however blinded, seared, or warped by prejudice or interest).
>
> This doctrine, making every man his own ruler, guide, judge, necessarily tends to anarchy, disobedience, and rebellion. This has been instilled into the minds of the working potters and colliers most industriously from their earliest years; and the fruit of such teaching has appeared in the late outbreak.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> It appears that Dissent is incapable of producing either pure morality or sound loyalty. It is therefore undeserving of any encouragement or support. Dissent has had a full and fair trial in the Potteries, where for many years it has had almost undisputed sway; its chapels numerous, its friends powerful—behold its fruits!
>
> It appears that immorality is a favourable soil for the growth of disaffection. Let immorality be removed by the implanting of better principles.

This is another specimen of the kind of testimony which Archdeacon Sinclair received against Dissent, and which his son now prints as being honest and impartial:—

> In the Dissenting schools, a great portion of the day is employed in purely secular instruction—in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The business of the school proceeds all through the time of public worship, and thus both teachers and children are systematically practised in the neglect of religious ordinances, and are led to embrace the most erroneous ideas of the obligation and duties of the Sabbath. The young people are brought up without any connexion with their superiors, and consequently imbibe no lessons of subordination and respect, and equally little of religious knowledge or principle, owing to the utter incapacity of the teachers. When they cease to attend school, they seldom attach themselves to any place of worship, but spend the Sundays in roaming about or in the beer-shops. In consequence of this defective education, which is, as I have shown, in some respects of a positively injurious character, and altogether incapable of fortifying them against the evil influences to which they are exposed in the mill, the moral condition of the young men, from fourteen or fifteen to one or two and twenty, is exceedingly deplorable: they are almost universally brutal in their manners, obscene in their conversation, vicious in their habits, undutiful to their parents, disrespectful to their superiors, without any just idea of the relative duties of their situation in life. From the influence of agitators and seditious newspapers, the power of reading, which is probably all that they gain by their Sunday-school education, they are generally full of exasperated feeling against their masters, and against all religion and government, which they are taught to consider as the bulwarks of a system of oppression, and by which they feel that an unpleasant restraint is often imposed on the full indulgence of their vicious inclinations.

The one thing to be said against this kind of writing is that it is not impartial, and that it ought not to have been printed as though it were. With much more pleasure we turn to Archdeacon Sinclair's charges on Preaching and on Free Thought, which, if not marked by great depth, are full of practical suggestion. They show a man who was observant, careful, desirous to be faithful and to see facts for himself, but who, like so many others, could never escape so completely beyond that atmosphere of tradition and unconscious self-interest as to enable him to do so. In these days it requires more of a martyr than the archdeacon was to view truly an institution which is so *maternal* and so apt to be shrouded in a halo of traditional perfection even in relations that compromise it and make it merely worldly.

* *Thirty-two Years of the Church of England*, 1842—1874. The Charges of Archdeacon Sinclair. Edited by William Sinclair, M.A., Prebendary of Chichester, Rector of Pulborough, &c., &c. With a Preface by Archibald Campbell Tait, D.C.L., Archbishop of Canterbury; and an Historical Introduction by Robert Charles Jenkins, M.A., Hon. Canon of Canterbury and Rector of Lyminge. (Rivingtons.)

*THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.**

This bulky volume is a memorial of great works, first the work of the Midland Railway and secondly the work of Mr. Frederick S. Williams. We do not know which is, relatively, the greater of the two. It is, of course, an indisputable fact that the railway has done and is doing absolutely the most, and with marvellous success, but it is also the fact that Mr. Williams has in this volume done the most and the best in the way of literature that could be done for it. Let the public esteem them together. The railway is the best in the kingdom, and this is the best of books about a railway. The book is not a fine production of literary art, but it is a fine production of literary diligence and completeness, and can be read through from beginning to end.

Mr. Williams begins his tale at the proper period—the time of birth. This is how we are introduced to the subject:—

> A little group of plain practical men were, on the morning of the 16th of August, 1832, sitting round the parlour table of a village inn in Nottinghamshire. They were coalmasters—deep in mines, in counsel, and in pocket. Once a week they were wont to meet at "The Sun," at Eastwood, to ponder their dark designs; and, when business was over, they solaced themselves with the best fare the landlord could provide, and with wine from their private cellar, for the safe custody of which mine host levied a toll of half-a-crown for every cork he drew.

Great agitation had been created concerning the price of coals at Leicester, and it became necessary that the canals should lower their rates and the coal-owners their prices. When the coal masters met—

> After anxious deliberation upon all the facts before them, they proceeded to enter on their minutes the declaration, that "there remains no other plan for their adoption than to attempt to lay a railway from these collieries to the town of Leicester." A committee of seven gentlemen was appointed to give effect to this decision by taking "such steps as they may deem expedient." Such was the origin of the Midland Counties Railway; and the "Sun Inn," at Eastwood, was thus the birthplace of the earliest of those lines which afterwards became united into what is now known as the Midland Railway.

Here we have the very beginning of the new

* *The Mid and Railway: Its Rise and Progress.* By Frederick S. Williams. (Strahan and Co.)

railway. The scheme was well supported, the route agreed upon, and Parliamentary authority obtained. It is singular that what is now the route to London, or a portion of it, was rejected at the outset, Northampton being denied the privilege of the new line. But for the purpose immediately in view forty years ago, there can be no doubt the right decision was arrived at.

Our author gives us instances of what had to be endured just before the railway. The tale is familiar enough to many of our readers, yet will not be familiar to some, and we quote a bit of it to show how readable Mr. Williams has made his book:—

But the only modes of conveyance at that time were three—the canal, the fly-wagon, and the coach; and the charges made were proportionate to the speed. Wool, for instance, required two days to travel the fifteen miles between Leicester and Market Harborough, and the expense was sixpence a hundredweight, the distance being it was said "so short, and the traffic so unimportant that they are obliged to charge an extra price." Only three coaches ran daily each way from Leicester to Nottingham, in addition to those that passed to and from more distant points, and on which little reliance could be placed by local travellers. Similarly many of the "fly-wagons" were long stagers, and were of secondary benefit to the intermediate towns. Meanwhile the charge for haberdashery, from London to Leicester, was 2*l.* 15*s.* a ton by canal, 5*s.* a hundredweight by wagon, and a penny a pound by coach.

Such means of communication and such prices could not but cripple a growing trade. Thus Mr. James Rawson, of Leicester, stated that he employed from 1,000 to 1,400 people in the staple trade of that town—the manufacture of worsted and of stockings; that it was indispensable to obtain the wools of the West of England, "because the wool grown in Leicestershire would not supply a twentieth-part of the quantity required"; yet that the canal communication between Leicester and Birmingham was double the distance of a direct route; and the land carriage cost 30*s.* a ton.

The respective conveyances, too, were often unable to carry the quantity of goods offered. Thus, a wool-stapler stated that he frequently had from 200 to 500 bags of wool lying at Bristol which could not be brought forward by land, and he had to divide the bulk and send it by different routes; that which went by road occupied from seven to ten days in the transit, and that by water from three weeks to a month. Further west, the difficulties increased, so that goods for instance from Plymouth, had to come by sea to London, and were in consequence not unfrequently a great length of time on the voyage and the land journey, and often arrived in a wet and damaged condition.

Similar difficulties were experienced in the Nottingham lace trade. Many of the largest manufacturers of lace lived in Devon and Somerset, and they sent the products of their industry to Nottingham for sale, the costliest fabrics having to run all the risks by land or water.

Leicester had also intimate business relations with the north. That town was a sort of depot for the wool trade of the adjoining counties, and to it Yorkshire dealers resorted. Their purchases had then to be conveyed northward, from whence machinery was brought in return. Yet the route by water from Leicester was first *via* Nottingham to Gainsborough, and thence to Leeds and the West Riding generally, the voyage occupying from twenty-four days to a month.

We do not of course intend to follow Mr. Williams through the whole of his history, or through all his wonderful statistics. We will just, however, say what he does. Step by step he tells us of the history of this great line, lighting up his narrative with all sorts of appropriate anecdotes. He is especially happy in his record of the services done to the enterprise by certain individuals. His mastery of the minutest details of his subject is something extraordinary, and we very much doubt whether he has missed anything that it would have been of interest or importance to tell. He has caught the enterprise of the Midland directors, and has done his work as well as they have done theirs.

Miscellaneous.

THE HAT QUESTION IN A COURT OF JUSTICE.—At the Limerick Assizes last week the officer of the court proceeded to call a jury to try a person charged with assault. Mr. Joshua Jacob, a member of the Society of Friends, entered the jury box without uncovering his head, on which he wore a remarkably broad-brimmed hat. Judge Keogh, observing the circumstance, directed one of the officers of the court to "tell that man to take off his hat." Mr. Jacob kept his face quite unmoved, and paid no attention to the order. The officer removed the hat, Mr. Jacob observing "passive resistance." The sheriff's officer hung up the hat on a peg behind Mr. Jacob, and this being done, he arose from his seat, took his hat off the peg, sat down, and quietly put it on his head again. Judge Keogh (warmly): Remove that man's hat. If he does not take it off I will put him in the dock. Mr. Jacob refused to take off his hat. Judge Keogh: Remove him from the court. Mr. Jacob: I would prefer to go into the dock than —— Judge Keogh: Remove the man out of the court, constables. Mr. Jacob was immediately seized by the two policemen and two sheriff's officers, but he said he would remain in court, and called on the judge to show him the Act of Parliament which warranted his lordship to treat him in such a manner. He added: "This is not legal—it is an illegal act." Judge Keogh: Remove him! remove him! (to the constables). That man, he continued, ought not to be let into court. I turned him out before, and he ought not to have been let in. Mr. Jacob was then removed by force from court. Mr. Jacob subsequently stated that he would take an action against the learned judge.

HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS.—The summer fête annually held at the Home for Little Boys, near Farningham, Kent, was attended on Saturday by a large number of ladies and gentlemen friends of the Home. Lady Lush was present to distribute the prizes given to the boys for school work, and Mr. F. Herschell, Q.C., M.P., acted as president of the festival. The Home has been brought under the notice of the public in past years by the association with it of the names of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, who are its patrons, and who have testified their interest in it by laying the foundation-stones of some of the principal buildings and by other public assistance. Their example has been followed by other friends of title and distinction who have assisted the object of the institution—viz., to feed, clothe, educate, and train to industrial work homeless and destitute little boys. The inmates of the Home now number over 300. At the summer fête the boys in the earlier part of the day are seen at work in their different homes on the pleasant little estate of the institution. The work done on Saturday comprised printing, bookbinding, painting, tailoring, and a number of other industrial occupations. The interesting kinder-garten system of education was seen in operation, and in a exhibition tent were displayed specimens of completed school work. Mr. R. Hanbury, the president, presided at luncheon in one of the schools, and the afternoon was devoted to the meeting in the chapel for examination and prize distribution under the presidency of Mr. Herschell. A spelling bee, in which the orthographical knowledge of the boys was severely tested, with results extremely creditable to them, and an arithmetic bee, not less indicative of their educational progress, formed part of the proceedings. The examination work was varied by songs from the school song-book, and Mr. Herschell having given an appropriate address, Lady Lush distributed the prizes—articles chosen by the boys themselves. After tea the athletic sports of the boys concluded the programme of the fête.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—In a letter to the *Times* Mr. Macgregor puts the objections to Lord Sandon's proposal of "day industrial schools" with much force, and points out in particular that they will exercise little or none of that reformatory influence which is, or ought to be, the essential principle of an industrial as distinguished from an ordinary elementary school. "The day industrial school," says Mr. Macgregor, "as defined in the bill before Parliament, would receive children for, say, ten hours daily, and would teach them, employ them industrially, and partially feed them. The children would be sent 'home' for fourteen hours daily, and, it is presumed, for all Sunday. Therefore the children would be sixty hours at the school and 108 hours at home every week. Such a plan will, therefore, be evidently unsuitable for children who wander or beg or steal, because they will do this out of school hours; for children whose parents are 'unable to control' them, or are unable or unwilling to supply clothing, or who are of the poorest class in bad localities and with shifting addresses." Moreover, asks the writer, "who is to select the children, and what child can be refused? Who is to induce them to come for ten hours' schooling if they will not come now for five hours? Who is to bring them to school daily?" This last is a question which goes to the root of the "uncontrollable child" difficulty, which Lord Sandon's proposal, as explained by himself, is in a great measure expressly designed to remove. As yet we have been quite unable to see how the "uncontrollable child" is to be got into the day industrial school any more easily than into the ordinary elementary school, except in so far as the "simple meal" will operate as a bribe to the child; or, in other words, in so far as the whole proposal partakes of the character of an experiment of a very questionable kind. On the whole, it is difficult to resist Mr. Macgregor's conclusion that, although "day industrial schools established and worked by voluntary agency and without compromising the policy of the State might be useful for children in small towns," they will, if established and managed in London by official agency, necessarily cumbrous and costly, be "a most expensive and demoralising failure."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE BALHAM MYSTERY.—The inquiry into the mysterious death of Mr. C. D. Bravo from poisoning by antimony is still in progress. Towards the close of last week some important evidence was given by George Griffiths (coachman), who stated that he was in the service of Mrs. Ricardo from May, 1875, until January, 1876. Previous to that he had been coachman to Dr. Gully. He was in the habit of giving the horses tartar emetic, which he purchased at chemists' in Streatham and Balham. When he was first in Mrs. Ricardo's service, from May, 1875, to January, 1876, he used tartar emetic as a lotion for the horses' sore shoulders. Mrs. Ricardo dismissed him a month before her marriage with Mr. Bravo, at Mr. Bravo's request. He had driven them together in the landau before their marriage. About four weeks previously witness had driven Dr. Gully and Mrs. Bravo in the same landau. Dr. Gully was sometimes taken up on the road and sometimes at his own house, and was put down where he wanted to stop. He believed that Dr. Gully had retired from the medical profession. He used to call Mrs. Ricardo "Florry." Dr. Gully kept a water-cure establishment at Great Malvern, and Mrs. and Captain Ricardo were his patients. The following register of poison sold, which was kept in pursuance of the Act of Parliament by Mr. Clark, of Great Malvern, was produced:—"June 11, 1869.—Name of purchaser, Dr. Gully. Name and quantity of poison sold, two ounces emetic tartar. Purpose for which it is required, horse medicine. Signature of purchaser, George Griffiths. Signature of person introducing purchaser, R. Bridges." At the resumption of the inquest on Friday it was announced that Mr. Serjeant Parry and Mr. Archibald Smith would watch the case on behalf of Dr. Gully in consequence of the course pursued by the counsel for the Crown, and the evidence given by Griffiths, the coachman. Griffiths was recalled and cross-examined respecting the purchases of tartar emetic, of which he had previously spoken. A man, named Stringer, was called by Mr. Lewis, who stated that on the day of Mrs. Ricardo's marriage to Mr. Bravo, Griffiths predicted that the latter would not live four months, the fact being that Mr. Bravo was married on the 7th December, and died on the 21st April following. The witness, however, stated in cross-examination that he might have referred to the fact that Mr. Bravo had been bitten by a dog, and that his death might result from that. Mr. H. B. Clark, chemist, Malvern, at whose shop the tartar emetic was purchased in 1869, was also called. The Crown lawyers state that they make no charge against any one, and only desire the fullest investigation.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOME AT ILFORD.—On Wednesday, the 19th inst., a party of friends and visitors, numbering over 1,000, assembled in the grounds of Mossford Lodge, Ilford, to take part in the interesting ceremony of opening the Village Home for Girls founded by Dr. Barnardo. The sum of 10,000*l.* has been received for and spent upon the new enterprise, although the scheme is not yet completely carried out. Nine acres of valuable freehold land have been purchased at an expense of nearly 2,000*l.* This has been enclosed, and efficient drainage works have been executed. An Artesian well has been sunk, and a good water supply secured. Gas has been laid on from the neighbouring town of Ilford, a distance of three miles. Thirteen pretty and commodious houses have been erected at a cost of 450*l.* each around one end of the plot of ground, leaving sites for seventeen others. A governor's house has been built, and a splendid steam laundry, together with a temporary infirmary. When complete, the village will have, in addition to these buildings and remaining cottages, a mission-hall to seat eight hundred persons, a school-house for six hundred girls and infants, and a school of cookery. The village is to consist of thirty cottages, in each of which, under the care of a Christian mother, twenty girls of various ages are to reside as a family group. A preliminary meeting to the ceremony was held in a large tent, at which the Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor presided, supported by the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, the Rev. G. Driffield, rector of Bow; Mr. J. Sands, the Hon. T. Pelham, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, the Rev. William Tyler, Rev. Neville Sherbrook, Lieut.-Gen. Sir George St. Patrick Lawrence, Major-Gen. Burrows, Captain the Hon. R. Moreton, Major Malan, Dr. Macauley, Lady Cairns and Miss Cairns, the Lady Catharine Gordon, the Dowager Lady Price, the Hon. Miss Cavendish, and a large number of other ladies and gentlemen. After the reading of Scripture the Rev. G. T. Driffield asked the Divine blessing upon the work. Dr. Barnardo read a brief report of the work of the year, and Mr. J. Sands, one of the trustees, made a financial statement, from which it appeared that 12,500*l.* had already been expended on the village, and that some 4,000*l.* or 5,000*l.* more were required still to complete the scheme. Lord Cairns having addressed the meeting, the company adjourned to the village itself. Outside each of the newly-built cottages stood the mother, with the family group destined to occupy it. Lord Cairns unlocked the front door of some of the houses, declaring them open, while Lord Aberdeen did the same for others. A brief prayer was offered outside each, and then the little family walked in and took possession.

THE AGED PILGRIMS' FRIEND SOCIETY.—The inmates of the two asylums connected with this institution enjoyed a day's entertainment in the spacious and charming grounds of Mr. and Mrs. William Green, of Bishopswood, Highgate-lane, on Thursday last. Hither some eighty of the pilgrims—amongst whom the sterner sex is very scantily represented—arrived in the morning, and spent the time from about noon to eight o'clock in quiet enjoyment, sitting under the shady trees or strolling about the garden to admire the flowers, or flocking into the marquee where their entertainers had hospitably provided an excellent dinner and tea. Lawn tennis and croquet were available, but these pastimes were not of course indulged in by the elderly ladies, who were quite satisfied to "rest and be thankful," and quietly enjoy as lovely an afternoon as anyone could desire. There was besides a large company of friends of the institution and other visitors, and as the evening drew on seats were placed on the lawn, and addresses bearing on the objects of the society, and containing words of counsel to the "aged pilgrims," were delivered by Mr. Green, who occupied the chair, and by the Revs. J. Viney, of Highgate, A. Rowland, of Crouch End, G. Clarke, from Australia, and the venerable Mr. B. R. Thomson, of Hornsey-lane,

Several hymns were sung by the entire assembly, and at the close Mr. T. Nunn, on behalf of the Asylum Committee, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Green for their kind entertainment, after which the aged guests were conveyed home, evidently grateful for their day's pleasure. Though this long-lived institution—it was instituted as far back as 1807—is little known, it has been the means of relieving the needs and promoting the comfort of many thousands of aged Christians of both sexes by means of life pensions of five, seven, and ten guineas a-year, and its benefits are open to members "of every Protestant denomination." For this benevolent object some 116,900*l.* has been expended since the society was started, and it gives help to more than 1,000 inmates and outdoor pensioners. One generous friend has lately paid the cost of forty additional rooms and a hall. This increased accommodation to meet growing demands, has greatly increased the current expenses of the society, which keeps up a sustentation fund, a benevolent fund, and a coal fund, each of which is expending more than its ordinary income. In the asylum at Hornsey Rise there are now some 120 inmates, and many more pilgrims could be received if there were room. An active committee manages the institution, and any of our readers who may be prompted by sympathy to assist in smoothing the declining years of the aged Christian poor befriended by the society will find their kindness gratefully appreciated by the committee and the secretary (Mr. W. Jackson) at the asylum, Hornsey Rise, N. A visit there will perhaps be the best means of opening their hearts and of discovering the true value of this excellent charity.

Gleanings.

The only men who have a right to talk of their extraction—Dentists.

There are about 50,000 sewing machines "hired out" in New York.

Over 200 tons of jams and jellies have been made this season for exportation at one factory in Coromandel, South Australia.

What men want is not talent—it is purpose; in other words, not the power to achieve, but the will to labour.

A lazy fellow, lying on the cliffs at a favourite seaside resort, was heard to say, "Oh, how I do wish that this was called work, and well paid."

Mr. Russell, who has for thirty years been editor of the *Scotsman* newspaper, and has been quite a political power in Scotland, died on Tuesday at his residence in Edinburgh, at the age of sixty-two. He had long been in failing health, but had been confined to his house for only about ten days.

HOW TO PREVENT SUNSTROKE.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* says that if outdoor labourers would put fern, turnip, or cabbage leaves inside their hats, or wind bands of rushes, vetches, or green herbage of some sort around them, there would be fewer cases of sunstroke. By this means the heat is not only greatly lessened but actually becomes grateful when strained through herbaceous substances.

THEN AND NOW.—An amusing caricature appears in the shop windows of Philadelphia called "1776 and 1876." In 1776 a small boy, clad in the immortal stripes, is squaring up against his venerable mother. In 1876 he and his stripes have grown to manhood, and the old lady is taking a "cobbler" with him—of course, through straws, in the proper American style, out of the same glass.

THE KORAN.—The *Birmingham Post* says the ignorance of some people as to the faith of Islam was illustrated in a most ludicrous manner at the Liverpool Police-court on Tuesday. A man was being sworn on the Koran, and the crier of the court, in concluding the administration of the oath, said, in a most solemn manner, "So help you Koran." As may be imagined, the greatest merriment was created, and the crier afterwards explained that he thought Koran was the Mahometan name for God.

MISTAKEN ON BOTH SIDES.—A gentleman at Scarborough, after waving his handkerchief for half an hour or more at an unknown lady whom he discovered at a distant point on the shore, was encouraged by a warm response to his signal to approach his charmer. Imagine his feelings when on drawing nearer, he saw that it was his own dear wife whom he had left at the hotel but a short time before. "Why, how remarkable that we should have recognised each other at such a distance!" exclaimed both, in the same breath; and then they changed the subject

A PUZZLED BISHOP.—An amusing anecdote is circulating—quietly, of course—in clerical circles. A bishop ordained a young gentleman as deacon, and then felt it necessary to send for the excellent clergyman who had recommended him. "What may your lordship want with me?" "I wish, sir, to speak about that young man." "What young man, your lordship?" "The young man, sir, whom I ordained. I want you to keep him in check. I had great difficulty, sir, in keeping him from examining *me!*" We fear that bishops have kept a good many men and things in check.—*English Independent.*

THE POWER OF ATTRACTION.—Professor Smythe was lecturing in Ossipee on natural philosophy, and in the course of his experiments he introduced one of Carrington's most powerful magnets, with which he attracted a block of iron from a distance of two feet. "Can any of you conceive a greater attractive power?" the lecturer demanded. "I ken," answered a voice from the audience. "Not a natural terrestrial object, I opine?" "Yaas, sir!" The professor challenged the man who had spoken to name the thing. Then up rose old Seth Wimlet. He was a genius in his way, and original. Said he: "I ken give ye the facts, squire, an' you ken judge for yerself. When I were a young man, thar were a little piece of nateral magnet, done up in kaliker an' dimity, as was called Betsey Jane. She could draw me fourteen miles every Sunday. Snakes alive, it were jest as nateral as slidin' down hill! Thar wa'n't no resistin' her. That 'ere magnet o' yourn is pooty good, but 'taint a circumstance to the one 'at draw'd me. No, sir!"—*American Paper.*

JEKYLL'S WIT.—Many of his jokes are, to be sure, of the kind disparagingly called funny; but they are funny with a substratum in them of shrewd mother-wit, and tickle our sense of humour with something beside and far better than the mere verbal jangle of an ordinary's punster's conceit. Take the following for instance:—A brewer having been drowned in one of his own vats, "Alas! poor fellow," said Jekyll, "floating on his watery bier!" An Irish barrister, just arrived in England, had a bad habit of putting out his tongue. "I suppose," said Jekyll, "that he is trying to catch the English accent." "I hear," said a friend, "that our friend Smith, the attorney, is dead, and leaves scarcely any effects." "It could scarcely be otherwise," said Jekyll; "he had so very few *causes.*" "Jekyll told of some one remarking on the inaccuracy of the inscription on Lord Kenyon's tomb, '*Mors janua vita;*' upon which Lord Ellenborough said, 'Don't you know that that was by Kenyon's express desire, as he left it in his will, that they should not go to the expense of a diphthong.'"—*New Quarterly Review.*

RULES FOR SEASIDE ENJOYMENT.—1. Before leaving home, study your trains, pack trunks the day before, don't forget anything, and avoid hurry and excitement. 2. Look for rooms quietly, in a clean, quiet street or suburb, and see that the rooms are clean and airy. 3. Do nothing at all the first day. 4. Rise early every morning, soap down and tub from head to heel, eat a biscuit, and go and hear the birds sing, and look at the sea. 5. Regular hours, regular exercise, regular meals, and regular medicine (if you need it). 6. Enjoy yourself all you can, but 'ware excitement and fatigue. 7. Strong men may bathe before breakfast, but the best average time is about three hours after breakfast. 8. Walk at a moderate pace to the bathing-ground, so as to be neither too hot nor too cold, and undress as speedily as possible. 9. It is better to plunge at once into deep water; don't unless you can swim, however, but rather after bending down and laving the face and both arms, drop right under. neath the first wavelet. 10. Wear a bathing-cap, especially if a lady. 11. If you can swim, swim and nothing else; if you cannot, you can at least tumble about and keep moving, and also rub your limbs with the hands. 12. Come out before you have actually ceased to enjoy yourself. 13. It is better to have your own towel, one at least, and let it be moderately rough. 14. Rub your face, shoulders, limbs, and body, using moderate friction, and finish drying with a smoother towel. 15. When quite dry, dress; and it ought not to be at all necessary to dress quickly. 16. If faintness or sickness comes on, which must be looked upon as quite an accident, lie down for a few minutes. 17. After dressing, a brisk walk should be taken; and now a lunch-biscuit will do you service. 18. Remember that the glow after the bath is the great event to be looked for. 19. If instead of this glow a decided chill takes place, and is not removed by a brisk walk, a small drop of brandy taken along with a biscuit becomes a necessity, or for ladies a glass of some cordial. 20. If you are an invalid try to forget it; if a Hercules or a Webb forget that. *In mediis tutissimus ibis.* 21. Don't forget flannel under-clothing if at all delicate. I have tried, although in a desultory sort of way, to let you understand that at the sea-side it is not alone from dabbling in the waves you are to expect the benefit. Health must be looked for by the seashore, and in the sunshine, in every breath of wind that blows, and in the ever-changing face of the great ocean itself.—*Cassell's Family Magazine.*

A REAL SUMMER DELICACY.—ROSE'S LIME JUICE CORDIAL mixed with water, or as an effervescing drink, in soda or potash, cooling and refreshing, or blended with spirits it supplies a delightful and invigorating stimulant, sustaining exertion and extremely wholesome. Sold everywhere. Purchasers should be careful to order Rose's Lime Juice Cordial, all others being imitations. Wholesale stores 11, Curtain-road, Finsbury.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—For Indigestion, Stomach, and Liver Complaints.—Persons suffering from any derangement of the liver, stomach, or the organs of digestion, should have recourse to Holloway's pills, as there is no medicine known that acts on these particular complaints with such certain success. They strengthen the tone of the stomach, increase the appetite, purify the blood, and correct depraved secretions. In bowel complaints they remove all morbid humours, and soon restore the patient to sound health, nervous or sick headaches, and depression of spirits may be speedily removed by these pills. They are composed of rare balsams without the admixture of a grain of mercury or any noxious substance, and are as safe as they are efficacious.

RECKITT'S PARIS BLUE.—The marked superiority of this Laundry Blue over all others, and the quick appreciation of its merits by the public has been attended by the usual result—viz., a flood of imitations. The merit of the latter mainly consists in the ingenuity exerted, not simply in imitating the square shape, but making the general appearance of the wrappers resemble that of the genuine article. The manufacturers beg therefore to caution all buyers to see "Reckitt's Paris Blue" on each packet.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

BIRTH.

COOK.—July 20, at Henley Lodge, Warwick-road, Upper Clapton, E., the wife of Mr. John Cook, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

HENDERSON—TREHANE.—July 15, at the Congregational Church, Southernhay, Exeter, W. Henderson, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., to Mary, daughter of J. Trehane, Esq., J.P., both of Exeter.

KENDRICK—MEDHURST.—June 20, at the King's Weigh House Chapel, Fish-street-hill, E.C., by the Rev. Baldwin Brown, George Edmiston Kendrick, of 681, Commercial-road, E., to Hannah, youngest daughter of John Medhurst, of 22, Water-lane, E.C., and of Limehouse, E.

GUTHRIE—STARK.—July 18, at Park Church, Highbury, by the Rev. John Edmond, D.D., Mr John Guthrie, Glasgow, to Jessie Finlay, daughter of Mr. Robert Stark, 3, Northampton-villas, Stoke Newington, N.

KEEN—LANGLEY.—July 18, at Uppingham Congregational Church, by the Rev. Fredk. S. Attenborough, brother-in-law of the bride, assisted by the Rev. M. Braithwaite, minister of the place, Benjamin Keen, of Totness, Devon, to Jane, second daughter of John Langley, of Uppingham, Rutland, and Duddington, Northants.

LIVETT—CHAPLIN.—July 19, at the Congregational Chapel, Fulbourne, Cambs., George Chaplin Livett, M.A., M.L., Downing College, Cambridge, and of Soham, Cambs, elder son of the late George Livett, Esq., of Cambridge, to Blanche Elizabeth, elder daughter of the late Abraham Thomas Chaplin, Esq., of Fulbourne.

SKEEN—ANDERSON.—July 20, at Brixton Independent Church, by the Rev. Robert Moffat, D.D., Henry Skeen, youngest son of the late Wm. Skeen, to Catharine, elder daughter of the late Wm. Anderson, of Stoke Newington.

LINDSAY—MORRISON.—DEVITT—MORRISON.—July 21, at Clapton Park Congregational Church, by the Rev. Samuel Hebditch, assisted by the Rev. James Jeffrey, M.A., of Glasgow, Archibald Maclaren Lindsay, M.A., Solicitor, Glasgow, to Margaret Oliphant, second daughter of the Rev. Dr. Morrison, of Amhurst-road, London; and also, at the same time and place, Andrew Devitt, of Lee-place, Clapton, to Jane Dales, youngest daughter of Dr. Morrison.

DAVIES—HOBBS.—July 18, at Trinity Church, Croydon, by the Rev. Wm. Clarkson, the Rev. Alden Davies, of South Croydon, to Bessie, only daughter of James Hobbs, of Canning-road, Addiscombe.

DEATH.

TOLLER.—July 15, at Wiesbaden, Isabella Jane, dearly-beloved child of William and Margaret Toller, of Rockingham-road, Kettering, aged 18.

THROAT IRRITATION.—The throat and windpipe are especially liable to inflammation, causing soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use glycerine in the form of jujubes. Glycerine, in these agreeable confections, being in proximity to the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, becomes actively healing. Sold only in 6d. and 1s. boxes (by post for 14 stamps), labelled, "JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle-street, and 170, Piccadilly, London."

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£20,000 worth of good BLACK SILKS, 24in. wide, bought at Lyons from the manufacturers. These silks are sold at prices varying from 3s. 6d. per yard upwards, and they are by far the cheapest Messrs. Jay have ever yet offered to the public.

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All the French rich model costumes to be sold at a reduction from 10 to 40 guineas on the original Paris prices. Among these there are novelties truly exquisite and elegant, having been used as patterns for mourning dresses, are now to be sold at the price of an ordinary costume. For fêtes, promenades, and ceremonies, unexceptionable in style and wonderful in cheapness.

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50 dozen of ladies' gloves at 1s. 9d. per pair. Scarves, Cambric handkerchiefs, hosiery of every kind, and cheap in proportion.

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The whole stock of mourning goods, of excellent quality, from one shilling per yard, and great reduction in all made-up costumes.

100 pieces Black pure Alpacas, reduced to 8½d. per yard.

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Alpaca Travelling Costumes, with material for bodice, £1 15s. each.

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Grey linen and other costumes, in or out of mourning wear, well adapted for travelling, for the seaside, and for the country.

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Black net dresses for evening and dinner wear, made of non-crushing tulle.

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French Millinery, consisting of the most tasteful and carefully selected articles which Continental fashion has produced.

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Reasonable estimates also given for household mourning at a great saving to large or small families.

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A GENERAL COURT of GOVERNORS will be held on THURSDAY, the 27th July, at the CITY TERMINUS HOTEL, Cannon-street, E.C., to ELECT 40 CHILDREN to the benefits of the Charity—viz., 14 Girls and 26 Boys.

The Chair will be taken at Twelve, and the Poll will close at Two o'clock precisely, after which hour no votes will be recorded.

DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS will be most thankfully received, which entitle to votes on that occasion.

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THE BRITISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of SPIRITUALISTS has published the Prize Essays on "The Influence of Spiritualism on the Social, Moral, and Religious Condition of Society." To be had at 38, Great Russell-street, London, and of E. W. Allen, 11, Ave Maria-lane, E.C. Price 1s.; post free, 1s. 1½d.

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The NEXT QUARTER will begin on THURSDAY, July 27

In the year 1875 Three Pupils passed the Oxford Local Examination, and One the Preliminary Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society.

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For Prospectus and information as to Scholarships, &c., apply to the Head Master, or to the Rev. Philip P. Rowe, M.A., Secretary, Tettenhall, near Wolverhampton.

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The course of instruction includes all branches of a sound Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education, so as to fit the Pupils for any department of business, or for entrance at the Universities.

There are two periods of vacation: one of six weeks (at Midsummer), and one for three weeks (at Christmas).

Applications for admission to be sent to the Principal.

For Prospectuses, with a view of the School Premises, Terms, and further information, apply to the Principal or Secretary.

ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION, LONDONDERRY.

Principal—EDWARD J. CHINNOCK, M.A. (Branch I.), LL.D. (London), late Head-Master of the School for Sons of Missionaries, Blackheath.

A prospectus with full particulars of school arrangements, exhibitions, and boarding department can be had on application. The school is situated on one of the most beautiful and healthy spots in the Kingdom.

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One former pupil is a Student Interpreter attached to the British Embassy at Pekin, and another has obtained the highest place at the Indian Civil Service Examination, and gained a gold medal at the London M.A. Examination.

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Messrs. Darlow and Co.

From the Rev. GEORGE REYNOLDS.
8, Bar[illegible]-street, Stepney,
Dec. 18, 1874.

DARLOW'S PATENT MAGNETINE CURATIVE APPLIANCES.

DEAR SIR,—Having for some time been in a very low nerv[illegible]s state, I was recommended by M[illegible]rks, printer, [illegible]quet-court, Fleet [illegible], to consult [illegible] on my case, an[illegible]dvice [illegible]n to wear you[illegible] Appliances; ever since [illegible] I have [illegible]n an altered perso[illegible]nd has [illegible] more vigorous, [illegible] spirits [illegible]h higher; in fact, I [illegible]en quite [illegible]. As a rule I have [illegible]much confidence in universal rem[illegible]s, but the results in my own case [illegible]ve been so satisfactory that I have recommended the Magnetine to several of my friends, and am pleased to say that in every instance it has proved beneficial. You are quite welcome to give publicity to this letter, and I shall be happy to answer any inquiries.

I am, yours truly, GEO. REYNOLDS,
To Mr. Darlow. Baptist Minister.

MAGNETINE.—Many sufferers have failed to obtain relief from Magnetism from no other cause than that the magnetic power of the articles worn by them has been too feeble to reach the morbid parts. Messrs. Darlow and Co., therefore, in consequence of complaints they are continually receiving, feel it incumbent upon them to warn the public against many appliances made in imitation of the genuine MAGNETINE Appliances, but which, on examination, are found to be articles of very inferior manufacture.

DARLOW & CO.,

Inventors and Sole Proprietors,

443, WEST STRAND, LONDON, W.C., 443,

OPPOSITE CHARING CROSS RAILWAY STATION.

Descriptive Pamphlets post free on application.

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